

RIC FLAIR'S TOUGHEST BATTLE: HIS BATTLE FOR RESPECT?

SPORTS REVIEW

\$1.95 U.S. / \$2.50 Canada / £1.35 U.K.

47817 Jan. 1989

Wrestling

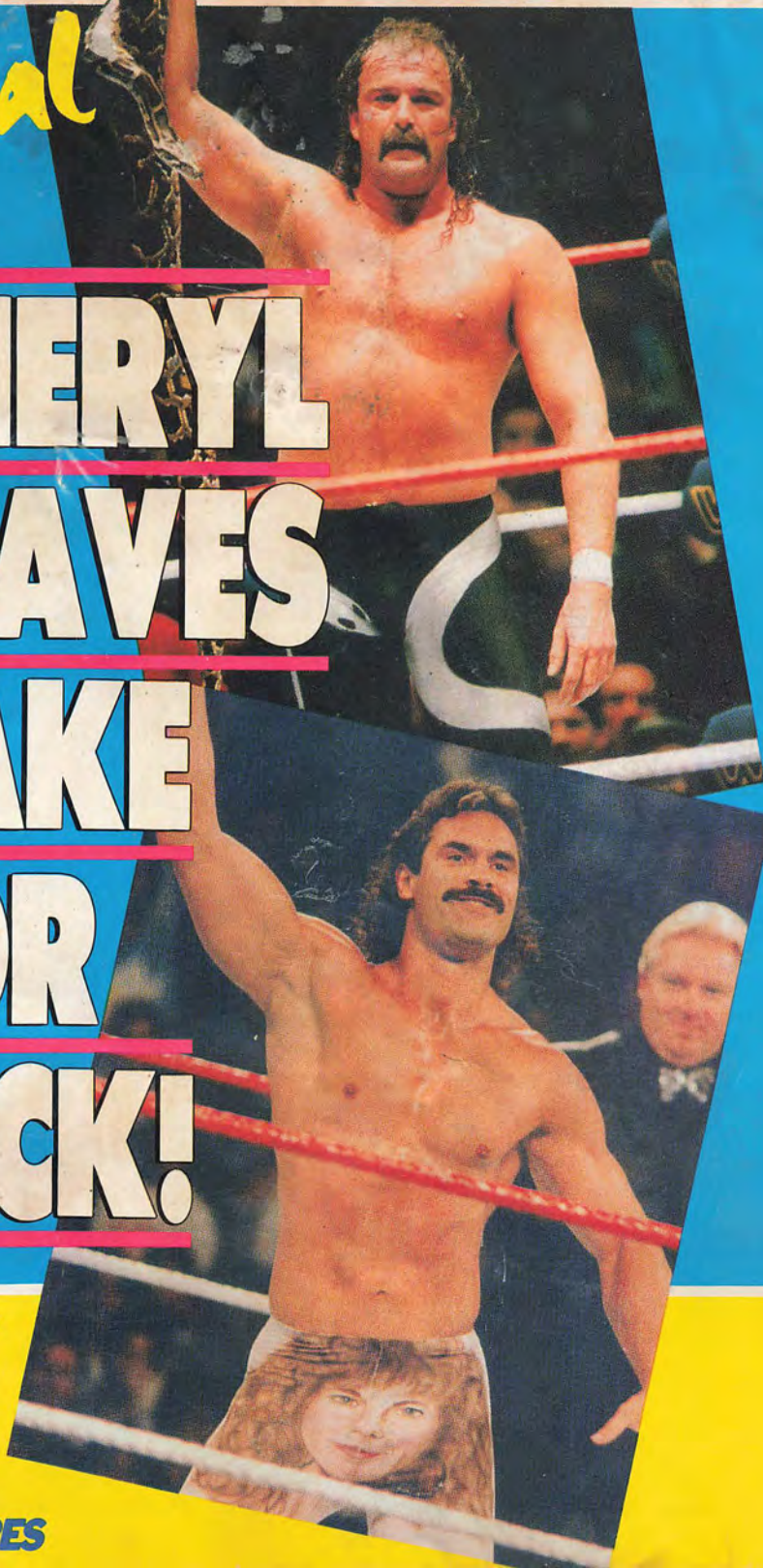
FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED



Sports Review

Fantasy Special

**CHERYL
LEAVES
JAKE
FOR
RICK!**



**Dillon On One Side, You On The Other:
WHO WILL WIN THE TUG-OF-WAR
FOR STING?**

**Special Section:
RANDY SAVAGE'S
CAREER IN PICTURES**





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Get FREE articles, novelties, books, stamps, coins, show tickets, games, films, products, maps, toys, food, drug samples, science materials, records, jewelry, hobbies, travel info, etc. Mammoth directory of over 1000 free offers with names and addresses. 64 pages.
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Learn Judo, Ju Jitsu, Wrestling, Muscle Building, Self Defense Tricks. Well illustrated, easy to understand paper covered books. Up to 95 pages.
#1265 50 Trick of Self Defense \$2.98
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#1266 Combat Judo \$2.98



Smoke Grenades

Realistic looking. Produces thick clouds of smoke. Watch em head for the hills.
#2011 Smoke Grenades, 12 for \$3.50



Pocket Spy Telescope

Powerful, yet fits pocket like pen. Magnifies several times original size. Brings distant objects closer. Attractive finish.
#6724 Spy Scope \$2.98



Big Bang Fun Snaps
Real Bang! Up Fun! Squeeze 'em! Step on 'em! Gives BIG BANG! Amazingly loud, yet you can pop them between your fingers without harm. Box of 200.
#2062 Fun Snaps \$2.98



ITCHING POWDER
The more they scratch, the more they itch. Ever wonder what a billion mosquito bites would feel like? Just a little bit on the skin and the itching starts.
#2285 Itch Powder (2 packs) \$1.50
Lifetime Guarantee



Deluxe Mini Lock Blade
Opens quickly and locks into position. Precision blade from snapping shut. Fine quality steel is razor sharp and holds its edge. Excellent for outdoor work, fishing, hunting or emergencies. Only 5 1/2" open, 2 1/2" closed.
#2093 Mini Lock Blade \$3.98



Mini Butterfly Knife
Just 3" fully open. Only 2 1/2" closed. A very handy, easy-to-open pocket utility knife. Stainless steel blade, brass plated handle. Safety lock. Twist open keychain.
#8966 Knife Keychain \$3.98



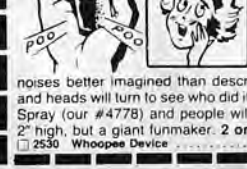
Instant Dog Mess
Aerosol spray lets you "decorate" fast. Just push the nozzle to spray any shape in any spot. Brown foam forms up fast and they think dog has been REALLY bad. Takes only seconds to create awful mess and super havoc. 5 oz. can.
#3941 Instant Dog Mess \$3.98



AIR CAR HOVERCRAFT RIDES ON AIR!
New HOVERCRAFT glides like magic over floors, sidewalks, EVEN WATER! Speak car of the future uses principle of air suspension to ride on cushion of air above most any surface. Colorful plastic, 8"x9"x2" high, 4" propeller, 4" control line from push button remote control unit. Simply press switch and the beauty rises and floats in any direction you wish. Illustrates inexcusable motion principles of full size experimental vehicles already in use. Not a kit. Ready-to-run except for 2 "D" batteries (not included).
#7606 Hover Craft \$8.98



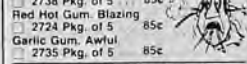
X-RAY VISION
Made in the USA. GREATEST GAG!
Greatest illusion of the century! Apparently see bones thru skin. Laugh not when people don't know if they can trust you! Regular size glasses with built-in optical illusion. U.S. made. Do not buy poor quality imports.
#3762 XRAY Specs Only \$2.25 per pair



Secret Whoopee Noisemaker
Devious device is easy to hide in your hand when making "natural" noises better imagined than described. Just squeeze and heads will turn to see who did it. Add a little Stench Spray (our #4778) and people will leave FAST! Only 2" high, but a giant funmaker. 2 or more, \$3.50 each.
#2530 Whoopee Device \$3.98



Police Style Chrome Plated Steel
Best Quality
HANDCUFFS - Lifetime Guarantee
#9043 Handcuffs with Keys \$5.98
#9048 Handcuff Case \$2.98



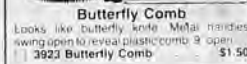
Joke Gum
Pucker Gum, Putrid, 2738 Pkg. of 5 85c
Red Hot Gum, Blazing, 2724 Pkg. of 5 85c
Garlic Gum, Awful, 2735 Pkg. of 5 85c



Cherry Smoke Bombs
Looks like it's really going to explode. It even gives off huge clouds of two colored smoke.
#2053 Smoke Bombs, 24 for \$4.98



Leather Fingerless Gloves
Soft & supple leather. Fingerless. Velcro wrist strap. One size stretches to fit very snugly.
#2512 Gloves \$9.98 pair



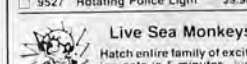
Butterfly Comb
Looks like butterfly knife. Metal handles swing open to reveal classic comb. 2 open.
#3923 Butterfly Comb \$1.50



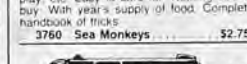
Deluxe Revolving Police Style Warning Light Only \$9.98
Revolves just like authentic police emergency light. Attach to car roof or dashboard in seconds. Also makes excellent psychedelic party light. Really get into the music & the mood with brilliant red beams revolving eerily around the room. With suction cup base for fast attachment. About 6" tall. Uses standard batteries.
#9527 Rotating Police Light \$9.98



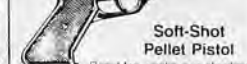
Live Sea Monkeys
Hatch entire family of exciting pets in 5 minutes. Just add Instant Pets! To pulverized water. Watch them grow, play, etc. Easy to care for. Nothing else to buy. With year's supply of food. Complete handbook of tricks.
#3760 Sea Monkeys \$2.75



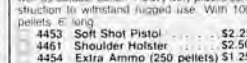
Soft-Shot Pellet Pistol
Rapid-fire, continuous shooting. Shoots 50 rounds in one loading. Soft vinyl pellets let you create exciting indoor fun as well as outdoor action. Heavy duty plastic construction to withstand rugged use. With 100 pellets & long.
#4453 Soft Shot Pistol \$2.25
#4461 Shoulder Holster \$2.50
#4454 Extra Ammo (250 pellets) \$1.25



Watch Lighter
Time for a light? No more searching for matches! 5 function LCD digital watch with push-button electronic gas lighter is reliable & adjustable. Batteries included.
#8111 Watch Lighter \$12.98

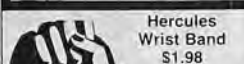


Look Slimmer With Body Control Shirt
You won't believe it's you! Made from a powerful stretch knit fabric with reinforced diamond panel that instantly "locks" you in for a leaner, firmer look. Improves posture, 100 slips on like ordinary undershirt. Undetectable under clothes. Wear all year round. Machine washable. Made in U.S.A. Specify Med (38-40), Lg (42-44), X-Lg (46-48).
#4237 Body Control Shirt \$8.98



Ventriloquist Dummy
SALE! \$2.49
Exclusive Import Bargain Make Him Move, Act Life-Like, Seem To Talk, Sing, Laugh
Full length 16-inch dummy with control to operate mouth and move head. No practice needed. Talks at once. Make him sit, stand, even dance and act alive! Fully dressed in colorful tailored suit. Molded plastic, natural finish head. Moveable arms and legs. INCLUDED FREE: 5 Minute Lesson on How To Throw Your Voice (With or without dummy). Fool friends as voices seem to come from under bed, behind doors, etc.
#6075 Dumbie The Clown \$2.49
#5984 Secrets of Ventriloquism (32 Pages) \$1.00

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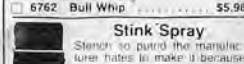
Hercules Wrist Band \$1.98
Gives rugged, masculine appearance. Double strap for heavy look. Adjustable. Get two - one for each arm. Genuine leather.
#2172 Each \$1.98
Set of 2 \$3.50



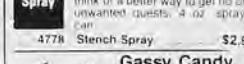
Blackhead Remover
Keep your skin free of blackheads. Pulverized vacuum action. The blackheads just without pinching or squeezing. Gentle. Safe. Fast. Guaranteed For men & women.
#4641 Blackhead Remover \$4.49



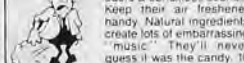
Leather Bull Whip
Crack the whip. Whip his hand naturally. Crack or coil it. Shake it out or back, under hand, sidearm or overhand. Cracker, tuggie, or end. Woven hand plat. Genuine leather whip at bargain price. Length may vary a few inches. About 5' ft. long.
#6762 Bull Whip \$5.98



Sink Spray
Stench so putrid the maniacs use it to make it disappear. Its plant stems for days. Just a little spray, everybody wants to know who did it. We can't think of a better way to get rid of unwanted guests. 4 oz spray can.
#4778 Sink Spray \$2.98



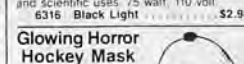
Gassy Candy
Tastes great, but ooddeewee! Guarantees noxious odors & obnoxious sounds. Keep their air fresher nancy. Natural ingredients. create lots of embarrassing "music." They'll never guess it was the candy. 10 pieces.
#2276 Gassy Candy \$2.50



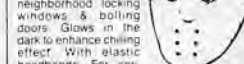
Black Light Bulb
FLUORESCENT EFFECTS. Black Light (invisible ultra violet ray bulb) Makes objects, persons, paints, make-up, minerals, etc. fluoresce in dark in brilliant, fire-like colors. Create "turned on" & supernatural effects. Many practical and scientific uses. 75 watt, 110 volt.
#6316 Black Light \$2.98



Glowing Horror Hockey Mask
The madman is back from the dead... again! You'll have the entire neighborhood locking windows & bolting doors. Glows in the dark to create chilling effect. With elastic headbands. For costumes only.
#3903 Hockey Mask \$8.98

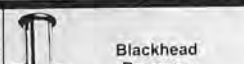


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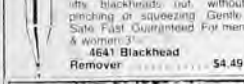


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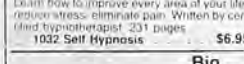
Jackpot Slot Machine Bank
Las Vegas replica. Pays real jackpot. Authentic action. Smooth operation. Accepts pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters. All metal construction with chrome plated front. Holds approximately \$20.
#502 Slot Bank \$11.95



Secret Book Safe
Looks like attractively bound book but opens to reveal combination lock safe. Keep valuable papers, jewels, money etc. hidden away. 4 1/2" x 6 1/2" x 2 1/2".
#4012 Book Safe \$2.95



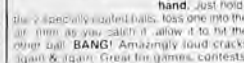
Soft-Shot Pellet Police Style Assault Weapon
Replica of SWAT team sawed off shotgun. Shoots up to 100 pellets in one loading. Fire with one or both hands on weapons. With pistol grip rapid pump-action firing mechanism. Front & rear sighting. Top loading ammo chamber. Two toned high impact plastic. Includes 200 soft vinyl pellets.
#4500 Assault Shotgun \$5.98
#4544 Extra Ammo (250 pellets) \$1.25



Police Cap
Style worn by big city squads & SWAT teams during major emergencies & multi-unit busts. Made in U.S. Inexacting specifications. Adjustable sizing.
#9775 Police Cap \$7.98



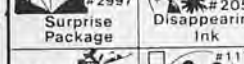
Big Bang Blaster Balls
Over 200 BIG BOOMS right in your hand. Just hold the 2 specially designed balls, toss one into the air. When you catch it, allow it to hit the other ball. BANG! Amazingly loud cracks, bangs & again. Great for games, contests, party favors.
#3943 Blaster Balls \$3.98



Super 88c Sale
Up To \$2.95
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#2057 Disappearing Ink
#1171 2963 Snapping Gum
#7317 Phony Brick
#4969 100 Magnets
#2955 1001 Insult Book
#2953 Whoopee Cushion
#2747 Holly-Hood Blood Capsules
#2955 Hand Shocker
#2636 Icky Upset Stomach Mess
#2999 Fake Dog Mess
#3199 Oops! Phony Toilet Mess
#2069 Hot Pepper Bubble Gum
#2099 Nasty Candy
#2073 Garlic Bubble Gum
Any 3 - Only 88c each
Smallest under - 3 items
Any 4 - \$3.25 (81c ea.)
Any 5 - \$3.95 (79c ea.)
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3 ITEMS = 1 FREE GIFT
#5011 Venus Fly Trap



Gain Weight Fast!
From Skinny To Winner
Gain Pounds, Inches, energy. Any body which is under-developed due to poor eating habits can benefit from WATE-ON's potent calorie content. Users report weight gains of 5-10+ lbs. per week. Added strength & stamina. Delicious chocolate flavor Super Shake Mix (16-oz) combines with milk to provide over 4000 calories. WATE-ON Tablets is a 30-day nutritional supplement with natural ingredients that causes the appetite to increase causing weight gain.
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#4084 WATE-ON Tablets \$10.95



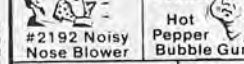
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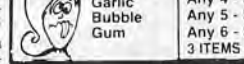
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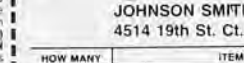
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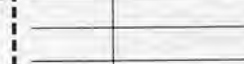
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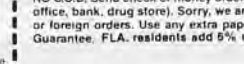
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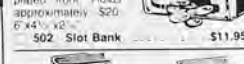


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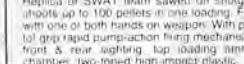
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Las Vegas replica. Pays real jackpot. Authentic action. Smooth operation. Accepts pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters. All metal construction with chrome plated front. Holds approximately \$20.
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Looks like attractively bound book but opens to reveal combination lock safe. Keep valuable papers, jewels, money etc. hidden away. 4 1/2" x 6 1/2" x 2 1/2".
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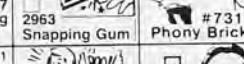
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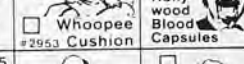
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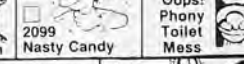
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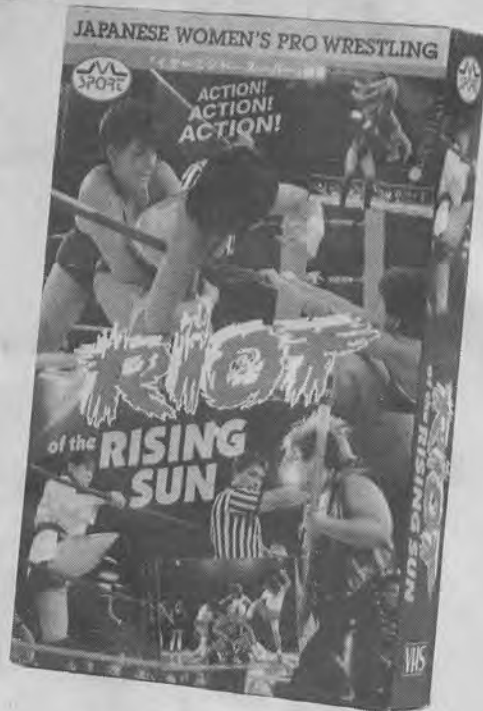
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- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula
- "Crush Girl" Lioness Asuka vs. "Crush Girl" Chigusa Nagayo

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Wrestling

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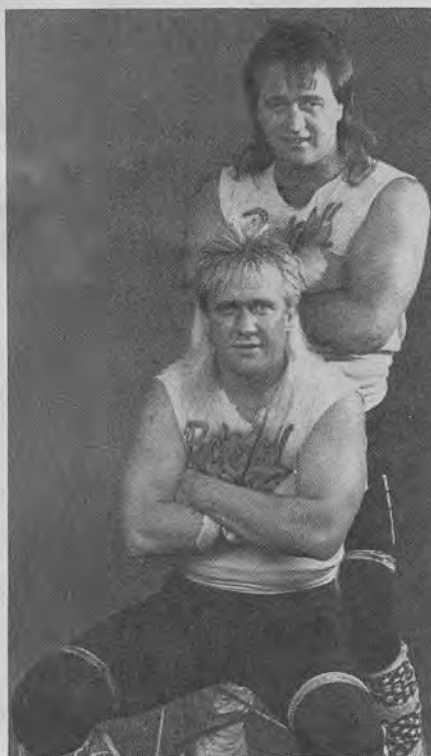
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ROCKING 'N' REELING

When I first saw your November 1988 cover story ("The Rock 'n' Roll Express Splits Up! Who's To Blame?") I was initially worried. But about a week after I received my copy, the Rock 'n' Rollers had returned! Unfortunately, they had returned to the AWA. Again.

You guys had better stop running stories on these two rolling stones; they move around so fast that by the time I get your magazine, the story is already outdated!

At one time I used to bemoan the loss of the Express. When they first went to the AWA, I rushed to join



The Rock 'n' Roll Express have split up and reunited so often that fans like Andy Hellman are becoming annoyed.

your letter-writing campaign in your sister publication *Inside Wrestling*. You ran a story that said the campaign worked. Shortly thereafter, the Express broke up. I guess the letters didn't work so well.

Now they're back together in the AWA. Sure, I wish them luck, but I'm going to read every story about them with a grain of salt and a calendar. Both are needed when you're discussing The Rock 'n' Roll Express.

ANDY HELLMAN
Hamilton, NY



Jerry Lawler slugs Kerry Von Erch before the match starts. To Tina Lopez, this is proof of Lawler's superiority.

THE ROYAL KING

When Jerry "King" Lawler punched Kerry Von Erch (at the beginning of their match in Dallas) I finally realized that they might as well give "King" what is rightfully his: the WCCW belt.

Kerry Von Erch isn't a true WCCW champ. The "King" is full of power. He only gave one little blow to Kerry Von Erch just to shapen him up and show him what he's worth. Kerry should have taken the punch like a man. Instead, he hit the canvas a beaten man. I've given up on him. For the past few months, all he ever does is cry.

The "King" is the best AWA champ of all time. Kerry? Well, he's just another wimp from Texas. Give credit and respect to Jerry Lawler, the "King."

TINA LOPEZ
Jersey City, NJ

TRICKS AND TREATS

Ah, Halloween. A time of ghosts, goblins, witches, werewolves, vampires, Steve Casey, bats, zombies . . . wait! What was Steve Casey's name doing listed with all those creatures of the night? Simple. Steve Casey was born on October 31, All Hallow's Eve. I

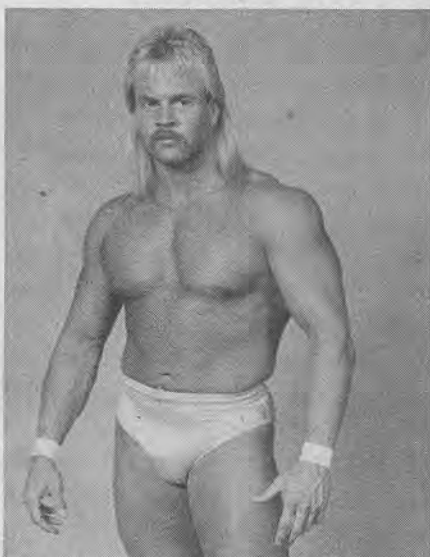
guess not *everything* associated with Halloween is bad!

On the contrary, this six-foot Texan is extremely good. One may even go as far as to say that he's excellent. Although he is soft-spoken out of the ring, his skills speak for themselves during his matches.

Not only does Steve possess great strength, but his speed and agility give added excitement to each and every one of his matches. His wrestling technique seems to improve every time he sets foot inside the squared circle.

Steve was given a shot at the World Class light heavyweight title and easily defeated titleholder Eric Embry. Unfortunately, Embry retained his title because at the weigh-in, Steve was one pound over the light heavyweight limit. Next time, Embry won't be so lucky.

Casey's extra pound that night does not mean he's fat in any way; his body is as perfectly proportioned as that of



Steve Casey is a great young talent who is exciting to watch both in and out of the ring, writes Pattie LaRue.

the most serious bodybuilder. His broad shoulders and strong chest cause screams of delight from the female fans. His strong jaw tightens during an intense match, and his eyes darken as he makes short work of his opponents.

While Steve Casey's fans consider him a real treat, the men who must face him know that he is full of tricks. It won't be long until he holds a belt of his own.

PATTIE LaRUE
Arkadelphia, AR



The Ultimate Warrior claims the Intercontinental title belt he won from The Honky Tonk Man at SummerSlam 88. Jennifer Eason is glad the Warrior won the championship and predicts a long title reign for him.

WARRIOR IS ULTIMATE

I'm writing to say how pleased I am that The Ultimate Warrior finally won a title. I'm a big fan of the Warrior and have been ever since he came to the WWF.

I'm also glad that he took the Intercontinental title from The Honky Tonk Man. Honky Tonk didn't deserve the title, and I knew he would lose it to either Brutus Beefcake or The Ultimate Warrior.

I think the Warrior will keep the belt for a long time.

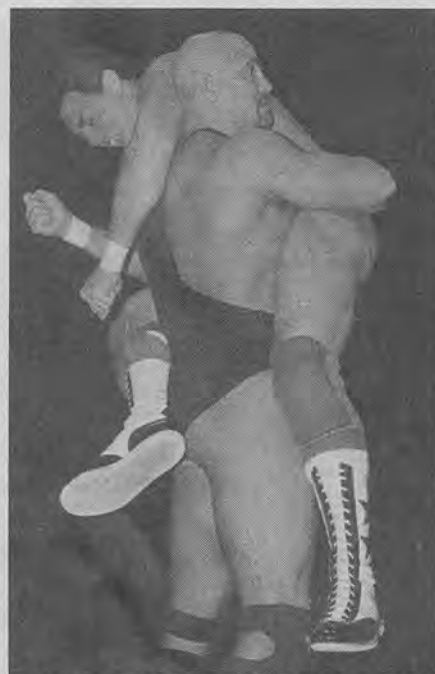
JENNIFER EASON
Carrollton, GA

HE'S THE GREATEST!

I have been a loyal fan of the NWA and think that it is the greatest federation in wrestling today. However, the NWA needs to improve in one area: the TV championship.

The name of this title should be changed to "The World's Greatest TV Champion" because, if you've watched NWA TV broadcasts, that's how the beltholder is described . . . no matter who that beltholder may be!

Tully Blanchard was "the greatest." Then, when Nikita Koloff took it from him, Nikita became "the greatest."



Nikita Koloff bearhugs Tully Blanchard. Both men have held the NWA TV title that Mike Rotundo now possesses—and Rick Steiner now defends!

Now that Mike Rotundo has the TV title, all of a sudden, *he's* "the greatest."

I just want the NWA to tell me, once and for all, which one of these wrestlers was truly "the greatest."

DELMER FRASURE JR.
Grethel, KY
(Continued on page 42)

THE TATTLER

NORFOLK, VA: The Road Warriors shocked the wrestling world by attacking their partner Sting during a six-man tag team match here against Kevin Sullivan, Mike Rotundo, and Rick Steiner. They then vowed to destroy any person who stands in their path to the NWA World tag team title.

"We've had it!" screamed Animal afterward. "First of all, Sting was trying to steal our thunder, and second of all, where the hell was Dusty Rhodes when we needed him? He was supposed to be with *us*, not doing some stupid charity thing on *our* time. He wasn't here when we needed him, so now we're never



THE ROAD WARRIORS WITH PAUL ELLERING

counting on anyone else again!" Rhodes, who, along with the Warriors, still holds a share of the NWA

six-man title, had a prior commitment at a Special Olympics event.

Sting was picked to fill in for Rhodes, but didn't see much action. Hawk and Animal repeatedly refused to tag out to Sting until late in the match. When Sting finally did get into the ring, he attacked Sullivan and threw him to the mat. The Warriors then bashed Steiner and Rotundo together, and Sting dropkicked Steiner to the floor. The Warriors hit Rotundo with a double-clothesline and were about to finish off "The Varsity Club" when Sting catapulted Rotundo into the ropes, slammed him, and applied the "scorpion deathlock."

This did not please the Warriors, who looked at each other in disbelief. Hawk pulled Sting off Rotundo by the shoulders, tossed Rotundo over the ropes (earning a disqualification).
(Continued on page 58)

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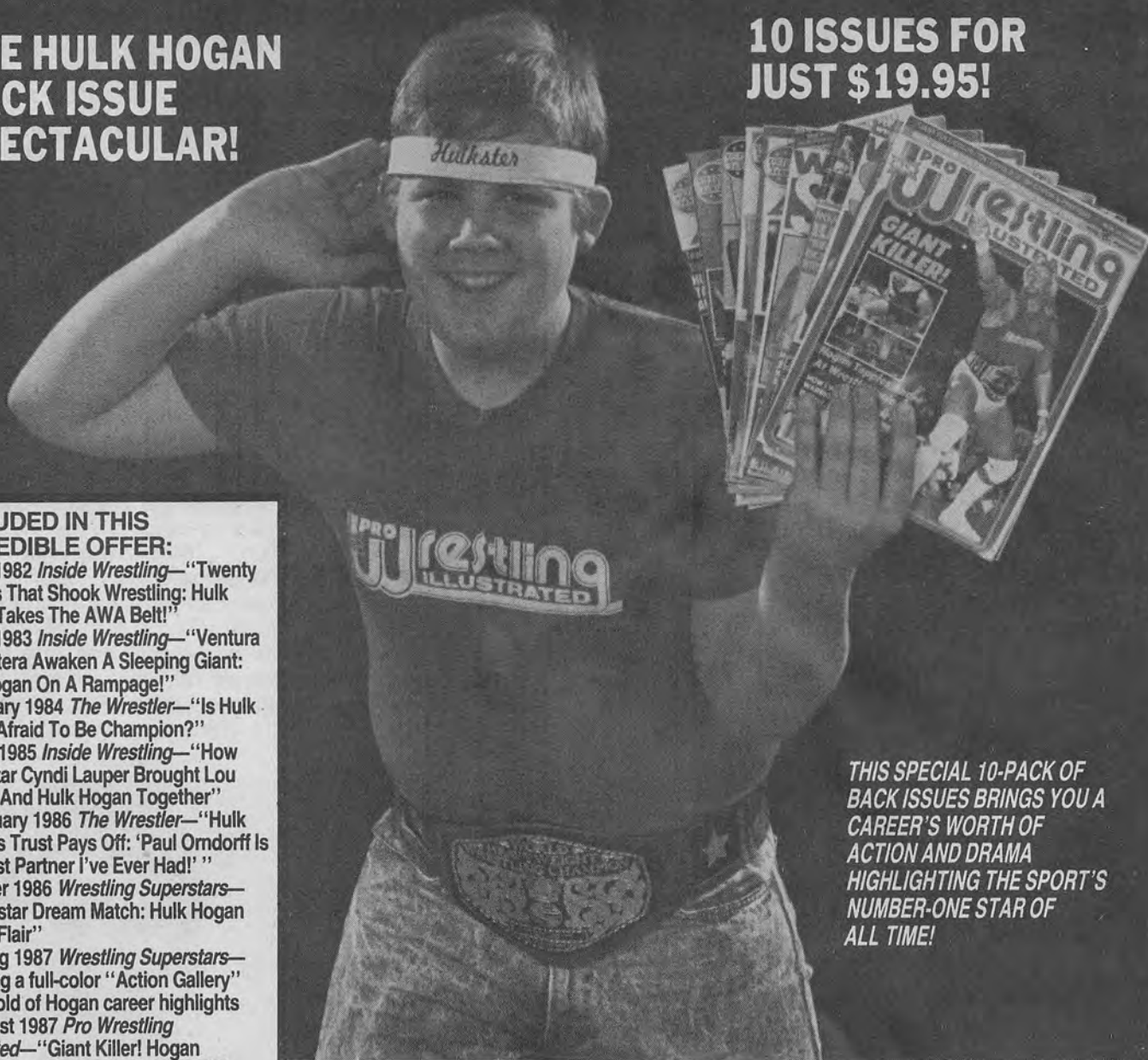
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ASK THE STARS
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THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

"What do you consider to be the hottest trend in wrestling?"

Submitted by:
John Richards
Cambria, IL



MICHAEL HAYES

"That's an easy one. Everybody knows that I was the first to produce his own music intended for spectacular ring entrances. Lemme tell ya, when the fans hear either of my self-penned tunes, *Badstreet U.S.A.* or *When The Love Comes Down*, they go nuts. Anybody can put on a tape of a popular song to get a rise from the people, but it don't mean squat unless you made the music yourself."



KEVIN SULLIVAN

"It appears that everyone in the wrestling world is trying to copy the 'Tower of Doom' match discovered by 'The Gamesmaster.' For years, this sport has looked for something fresh and new the public has never seen before. What could be more exciting than three steel cages stacked right up to the arena lights, with 10 men fighting for their lives inside it? It's a stunning innovation."



DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE

"What's hot? How about my bodacious Diamond Dolls, daddy? A lot of wrestlers have valets, but how many people have an entire army of pulchritudinous female flesh ready to provide for his every need? There are literally hundreds of these gorgeous women just waiting to make appearances with my men all over the world. There's not another manager in wrestling who can top this, baby!"



RICK STEINER

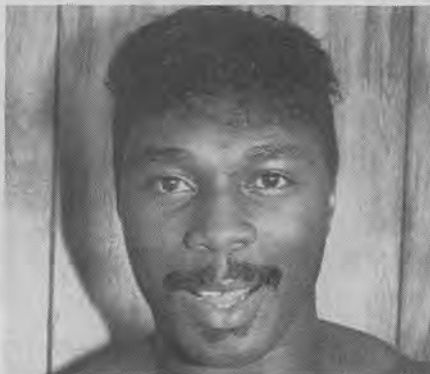
"Uh, the biggest trend in wrestling is me. It's not? Oh, what I mean are guys who have, like, done good in college sports and then went on to football, I mean wrestling. When you've been the best in school and pro wrestling, you know you've made it really big, like I have. Well, maybe, uh, I guess I might have. I'm not sure, but I could have. I dunno. Whatever Kevin says."

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



JIM CORNETTE

"Everybody wants to be the biggest and the best, but nobody's ever going to match the record of The Midnight Express. Nobody else has ever been the U.S. and NWA World tag team champions at the same time, and I think that's a record that will stand up with Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak, brother. We've set the standard that all the other teams are scrabbling to live up to."



BRICKHOUSE BROWN

"I think the fans enjoy it when a wrestler finally wakes up and sees things for what they really are. For months, I let Robert Fuller guide my career, and I went along with every plan and scheme that he came up with. Then I discovered what a slimeball Fuller really is. Now I let the fans dictate what I do in that ring. Know what? I haven't been this happy in years."



GEN. SKANDOR AKBAR

"The biggest development in this sport is the importing of talent from the beautiful nation of Africa. I have the great Kamala and the incredible Beast, both native Africans, in my stable of champions. I'm also pleased to see Col. DeBeers emerge as a force in the sport again. And then there are the Simpson brothers—no, skip that. Those two wimps could *never* be full-blooded Africans."



GREG GAGNE

"To me, the most important trend is the willingness of promoters to get together to produce the finest cards wrestling has seen in years. Recently, Jerry Lawler has defended his AWA World title not only in the AWA, but in World Class, in the CWA, in the Continental area, and in arenas around the world. This kind of development can only help the fans, and I'm glad to see it."



MR. WRESTLING II

"It's got to be bounties. When I was just getting started in wrestling 33 years ago, it was a sport where two men tried to best each other with ability and desire. Now it seems like wrestlers are more interested in making money by maiming. When a man puts a bounty on your head, you live every day in extreme danger. It's something I think really ought to be outlawed."



EDDIE GILBERT

"No doubt about it—the biggest thing in wrestling in 1988 has been yours truly, Jack. When I went to Memphis, I burned things up for months. Then on to Continental, and suddenly that area became the hottest thing going. Now I'm setting my sights on new conquests, but rest assured that wherever I turn up will be the most successful federation in the sport. The numbers prove it." □

The Inquiring Reporter

No one knows wrestling better than the fans.

Because of this, we're now giving these experts a forum for their views and opinions. Each month, we'll ask a controversial question and have the fans answer—no matter what those answers might be!

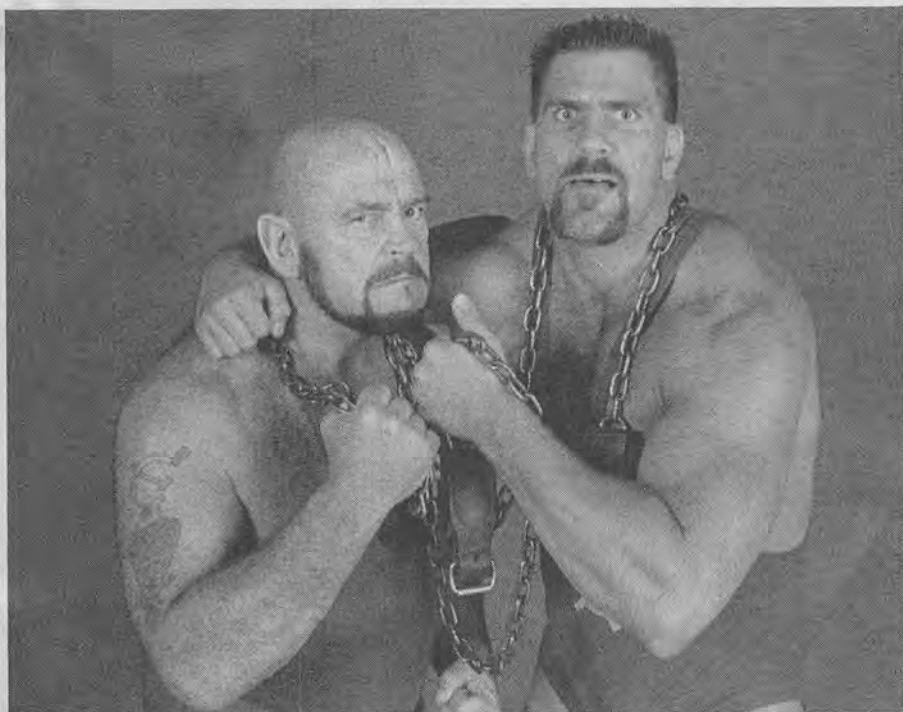
THE QUESTION:

"In light of the recent reunion of the Koloffs, and Ivan's past history of nefarious rulebreaking, should Nikita trust Ivan?"

THE ANSWERS:

David Schenk, Chicago: "Certainly not! Ivan Koloff has a lifetime history of deception, not unlike the Soviet state from which he hails. Russians who have proven themselves to be aggressive toward our country and our superior way of life should be regarded with the utmost suspicion. I wouldn't trust Ivan. Who knows if his split with Paul Jones and The Russian Assassins is for real? Ivan does whatever will help him *at that moment!* Two months down the road, I'm sure Ivan and Nikita will have parted company!"

Roy Kreitner, Babylon, NY: "I was always taught to forgive and forget. Especially when members of your family are concerned. Ivan and Nikita go way back, and I think because they share common heritage, Nikita should be able to trust Ivan. Remember, Nikita was a rulebreaker, too. In fact, with his uncle Ivan, Nikita was part of one of the most hated teams in wrestling history. This doesn't mean that



After almost two years apart, Ivan and Nikita Koloff are back together. But how long will their reunion last? That's the question very much on the minds of both men's fans.

they should be mistrusted now! Nikita turned over a new leaf, so can Ivan. If they give him the chance, that is."

Keith Meyerson, Helena, MT: "Well, I don't really see what the problem is. I mean, why can't they just be friends? People change, you know. Both of them have gone through changes over the years. First Nikita turned good, and now Ivan. I think it certainly be-

hooves Nikita to accept Ivan. Where would Nikita have been if no one had offered him a hand of friendship when *he* turned good? His family and friends in Russia had deserted him. When a man is cut off from his homeland, well, that's quite a strain. And now Ivan is facing the very same strain. I wish him luck and admire his courage!"

(Continued on page 48)



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From time to time, the editors of this magazine find it necessary to condemn those in wrestling who would subvert the basic principles of decency, integrity, and honesty. Without such truths, our sport will die

APPROACHING THE CORRIDOR leading to most wrestling rings is a sign that simply says: "No Admittance! Wrestlers And Managers Only!" Judging, however, by the proliferation of wives, children, and other relatives at ringside, most wrestlers can't read.

Either that, or they just don't care about safety where their families are concerned.

We accuse wrestlers—not all, of course, but even one is one too many—of completely disregarding important safety regulations. We indict their ignorance and the arrogance of assuming that their relatives have a good reason to be at ringside. Most of all, we accuse them of forgetting that the *real* purpose of wrestling is to conquer your opponent, not humiliate his family.

The most recent transgression was committed by Jake Roberts. His feud with Rick Rude started when Rude decided to make a play for Jake's wife, Cheryl. Jake, in response, began battling the self-proclaimed "Sexiest Man In The World" with renewed vigor. Jake wasn't beating Rude just for himself or his fans, he was beating Rude for Cheryl.

That was great for the fans and it was great for wrestling. But now, as



Cheryl Roberts, Jake "The Snake's" wife, has accompanied her husband to ringside on several occasions. This kind of participation should not be encouraged.

the feud wears on, Cheryl Roberts has begun making ringside appearances on behalf of her husband. While we can understand how important it is for Cheryl to clear her name and resurrect her honor, the place to do that is not a wrestling ring.

Jake Roberts is a professional wrestler. Rick Rude is a professional wrestler. Both are bitter enemies who need the ring to settle their hostilities. That's what wrestling is all about.

Cheryl Roberts is neither a wrestler nor a manager. Her participation in wrestling should be limited to rooting for her husband and helping him heal his physical and emotional wounds after the battle is done. Helping him to *conduct* that battle not only cheapens the intensity of Jake's one-on-one struggle with Rude, but it is diametrically opposed to everything wrestling stands for. It's also extremely dangerous to Cheryl.

Untrained observers who think they can handle the pressure and potential danger at ringside invariably find themselves injured. Just ask 14-year-old Willie B. Hert Jr. During an interview session, the young Hert—who, like Cheryl Roberts, has no place at ringside—was viciously beaten by Paul E. Dangerously and Eddie Gilbert. Hert Jr. had been attempting to defend his father's honor and avenge a prior beating.

Instead, he became a *part* of his father's battles. If his father needs defending, let him stand up for himself! That's what *wrestling* is for! If Hert Sr.—a man who's been wrestling almost his entire life—couldn't stand up to Gilbert, how does he expect his young son to do it?

Even more dangerous was Rick Steamboat's decision to bring his infant son into the ring at WrestleMania IV. Steamboat's opponent, Greg Valentine, was *already* in the ring. As Steamboat hoisted his son in the air, a sadist like Valentine might have struck the most evil of blows.

(Continued on page 62)

GO FIRST CLASS!

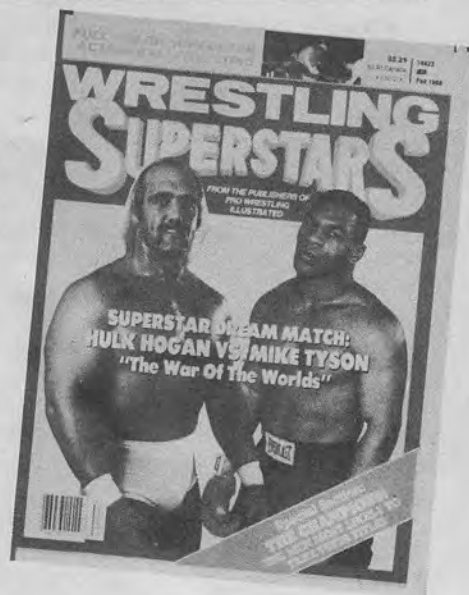
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WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

RONNIE GARVIN

GREG GAGNE IS an honorable man. When he steps into the ring, he expects his opponent to play by the same standards of conduct to which he has long adhered.

Gagne's expectations didn't change on September 17 in Nashville, Tennessee. That was when he set out to defend his AWA TV title against "Hands of Stone" Ronnie Garvin, a former NWA World champion who, for most of his career, had wrestled in the same style as Gagne—at least where the rulebook was concerned. And while Gagne knew of the turmoil Garvin had gone through in the NWA when he ambushed Dusty Rhodes, he expected to be wrestling the Garvin that fans everywhere had grown to respect.

He was wrong.

On that Saturday night in Music City, U.S.A., Ronnie Garvin conclusively proved that he is, indeed, a changed man—changed for the worst. Unwilling to fight fairly, Garvin sucker-punched Gagne to gain the pin and win the championship. Another belt in the trophy case of the gritty grappler.

But that is not why Garvin is our "Wrestler of the Month." If it was, he would have won that honor when he defeated Ric Flair for the NWA World belt. Though we condemn his methods, Garvin is this month's top grappler because of his clear and immediate impact upon the AWA.

September 17 was Garvin's first night in the federation. His *first*. How many wrestlers have won a title on their first night in an organization? Not many. In one shot, Garvin not only fattened his wallet, but he changed the face of the AWA.

As a rulebreaking champion, Garvin will be defending his title mainly against AWA fan favorites such as Wahoo McDaniel, Mando Guerrero, and, of course, Gagne. That means more rulebreakers will be free to go after World champion Jerry Lawler, putting his title in the most danger it's ever been in. Garvin's stunning victory caused all this realignment.

A closer look at that tainted victory reveals Garvin's now-twisted character. About eight minutes into the match, Garvin leapfrogged over Gagne. In doing so, he appeared to have hurt his ankle. At that crucial moment, Gagne could have continued his attack, but he backed off.

"I thought Garvin was hurt," Gagne said later. "I don't think it's fair to wrestle a man if he's badly injured and you're not. That's not the way I was taught to fight. At the time I was truly concerned about Garvin's

condition."

Gagne asked Garvin if he could take a closer look at the ankle. Garvin said yes. As Gagne moved closer, Garvin hit him hard. Gagne went down, Garvin made the cover, and the belt changed hands. Instant controversy.

"That was a loaded punch!" Gagne, uncharacteristically perturbed, screamed afterward. "I don't know if he had brass knuckles or what, but he was definitely packing something. Anytime I've been hit that hard, it was later found out that my opponent used a loaded glove or a foreign object. I don't doubt that Garvin did the same."

As he celebrated the victory with champagne, Garvin denied the accusation.

"Greg Gagne isn't man enough to admit that I beat him fair and square. Foreign object? Why do you think they call me 'Hands of Stone'? I hit them so hard they think I used something illegal, but there's nothing illegal about the power in these hands. These are lethal—and legal—weapons."

Garvin may have forgotten the meaning of honor, but he is still a fighting champion, willing to defend the belt wherever the AWA will allow him to go. The recent cooperation between the AWA and World Class gave Garvin the opportunity to put the title on the line in Texas.

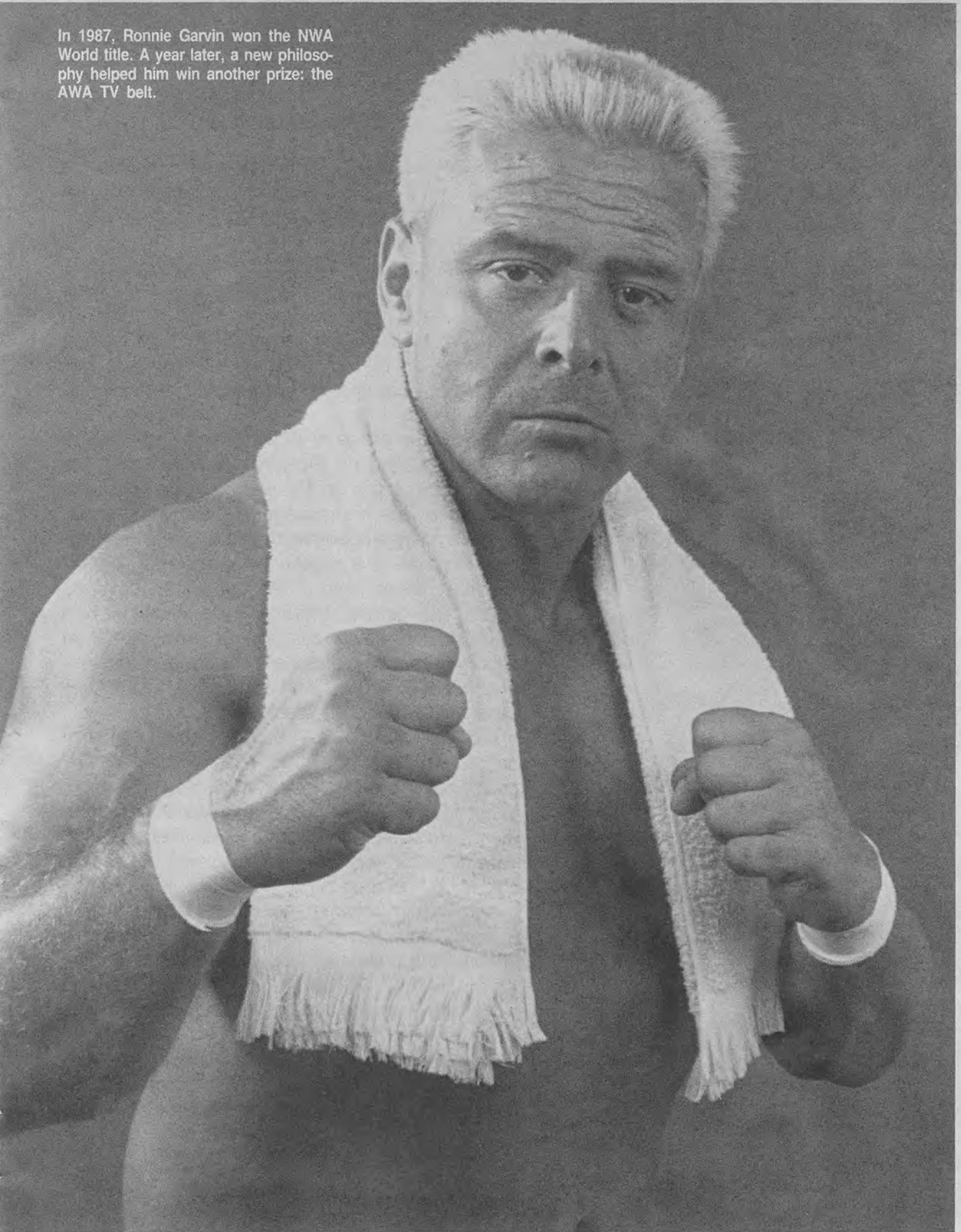
"Hands of Stone" is also keeping busy on other fronts. He has wrestled Lawler for the World belt several times, and is scheduled to enter the tournament for the World Wrestling Council title in Puerto Rico. No one could accuse the man of ducking a challenge.

"You can say I changed," Garvin observed, "but I'm still the same old Ronnie Garvin. I'll fight any man alive. I'd be a fool if I said the money wasn't important. Of course it is. But there's nothing like getting in that ring and facing a man one on one. That, to me, is the ultimate competition. You can't get that feeling in team sports."

"I'll give the man credit for that," Gagne said grudgingly. "He loves the sport as much as I do. I can't stomach his methods, but he has a lot of guts. I just wish he'd start wrestling clean again, the way he used to."

Ronnie Garvin is a winner. He has an incredible knack for winning titles wherever he wrestles. There's no denying that. But he will not achieve full acceptance in our hearts until he goes back to being the honorable man he once was. He won this month's award by changing the face of a federation; we hope that the next time he wins "Wrestler of the Month" it's for more noble reasons. □

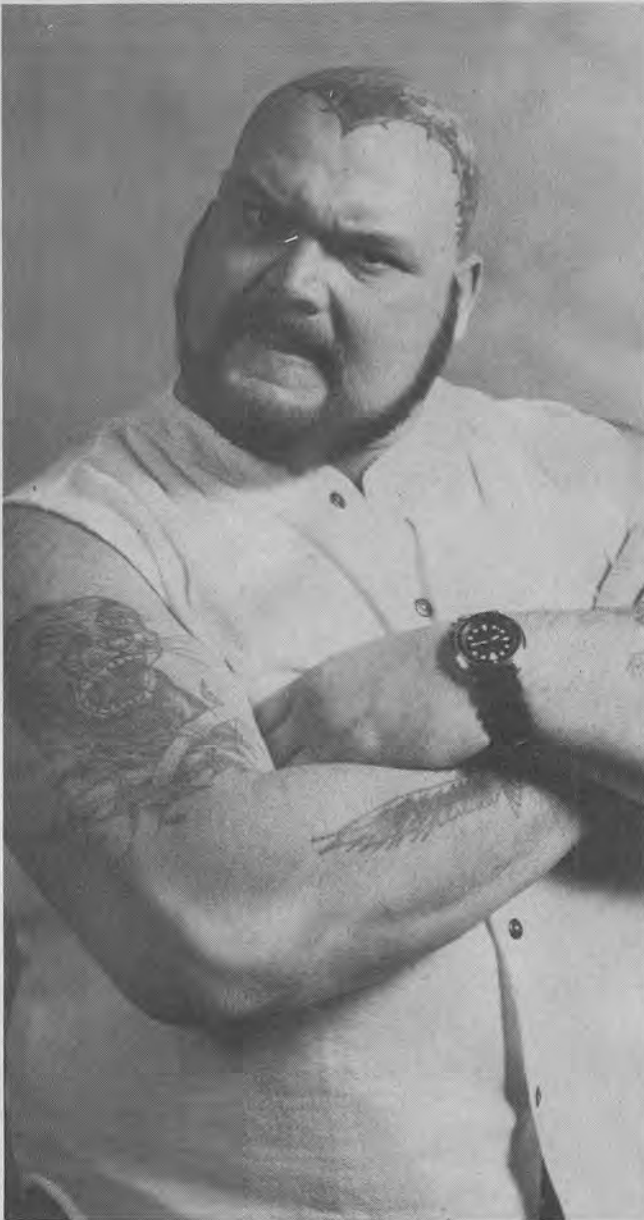
In 1987, Ronnie Garvin won the NWA World title. A year later, a new philosophy helped him win another prize: the AWA TV belt.



POINT/COUNTERPOINT

POINT

**BAM BAM BIGELOW SHOULD NOT
RETAIN OLIVER HUMPERDINK
AS HIS MANAGER**



Bam Bam Bigelow did a lot better for himself *without* Oliver Humperdink as his manager, writes Dave Rosenbaum, who thinks that Bigelow should change his style or find another manager.

By Dave Rosenbaum

IT'S APPALLING TO me that a wrestler with the talent of Bam Bam Bigelow competed for a full year in the WWF and left before he could redeem himself in the eyes of fans.

That's right, *redeem*. When a highly touted newcomer fails to live up to even the lowest of expectations, he is disgraced. When Bigelow came to the WWF, all the experts (including my learned colleague on the opposing page) knew that with his talent, strength, and surprising mobility, he would go far.

Blinded by praise of Bigelow, the experts were too busy adding up Bigelow's assets to compensate for Bigelow's built-in disadvantage. That disadvantage was his manager, Oliver Humperdink.

The evidence is overwhelming. Without Humperdink, Bigelow is a regular belt-holder and one of the most feared men in the game.

With Humperdink, however, Bigelow neither won a title nor maintained the level of ferocity that had become his trademark. He was the laughingstock of the WWF and an embarrassment to the "experts" who predicted great things for him.

Bigelow held the Mid-Southern (now CWA) belt on several occasions, and was World Class TV champion. His arrival in the WWF was well-timed. Great things *were* in store for him. But the moment Humperdink became his manager—or, should I say *mismanager*—Bigelow's access to title shots became limited and his road to the championship became littered with potholes.

In his day, Humperdink was one of the best rulebreaking managers anywhere. But in the WWF, Bigelow wanted to observe the rules, and Humperdink couldn't make the adjustment.

Remember: During Bigelow's most successful days in Memphis, he was not managed by Humperdink. Now that he's in the NWA, I think Bigelow might wish to return to the rulebreaking style that led him to his greatest successes.

That, or find himself another manager.
Dave Rosenbaum is associate editor of *Sports Review Wrestling*.

There are two sides to every story, and nowhere is that more true than in professional wrestling. Each month, two of the world's most respected mat journalists will debate an important issue concerning the sport, facing off for an exchange of ideas, leaving the final decision up to *you*!

COUNTERPOINT

BAM BAM BIGELOW *SHOULD* RETAIN OLIVER HUMPERDINK AS HIS MANAGER



Humperdink did all he could with Bigelow; the problem was with WWF matchmakers who wouldn't give Bam Bam title shots. That's Craig Peters' opinion, and it's shared by Bigelow himself.

By Craig Peters

TO DATE, NOBODY has been able to describe Bam Bam Bigelow's plight in the World Wrestling Federation better than Bigelow himself.

"Humper did fine," the 390-pound behemoth said in the December 1988 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*. "He did the best he could; it was the federation that turned a deaf ear to my cause."

Fans and media alike have been quick to dismiss the managerial skills of Oliver Humperdink. Humperdink was a proper choice as Bigelow's manager when he entered the WWF, and he's the best man to guide Bigelow now in the NWA.

Don't blame Humperdink for Bigelow's lack of development; blame WWF officials. Instead of giving Bigelow the title shots he deserved, WWF promoters matched World champion Randy Savage with Ted DiBiase continually since WrestleMania IV. If Bigelow wasn't getting title shots, nobody else was, either.

"You know, the WWF is like a four-man show," said Bigelow. "There's a lot of attention focused toward Hulk [Hogan] vs. Andre [the Giant] and Savage vs. DiBiase, but that didn't leave too much room for me."

Not too much room for anyone else, either. Neither Bigelow nor Humperdink are used to the flashy, show-biz style of the WWF. Since neither do unfunny Elvis impersonations, carry scissors, or escort animals to ringside, there's no way these *wrestling* stars could thrive in the WWF circus.

The true test for Humperdink and Bigelow will come now. In the NWA, the big man will be able to display his wealth of talents against a host of top-flight opponents. Humperdink will finally have the opportunity to show the world why he was one of the greatest managers in Florida history—and he can do it on a *national* scale.

When Bigelow left the WWF, Humperdink stayed behind for a short time. When Bigelow decided to enter the NWA, the first man he called was Humperdink. Now they're together again.

Just like it ought to be.

Craig Peters is managing editor of *Sports Review Wrestling*.

INTERVIEW

JERRY LAWLER

WHAT HAS HAPPENED to Jerry Lawler? Has the pressure of defending his AWA World title finally driven him to the breaking point? Is this increasingly violent, seemingly desperate man really the same person who strived for years to establish himself as one of the most popular stars in wrestling?

Lawler hasn't been acting like his usual self, especially against World Class champion Kerry Von Erich. Lawler has teamed with "The Modern-Day Warrior" against rulebreaking teams in Memphis. But on September 9 in Dallas, Lawler brutalized Von Erich before a scheduled belt vs. belt confrontation. Lawler's drastic mood swings are beginning to confound fans and foes alike.

"The King" has also raised questions by bringing back a deadly weapon from his past. He's been hurling blazing fireballs at his foes in an increasing number of matches. Lawler uses this disturbing weapon only against rulebreakers, and he does so with frightening precision. Lawler's critics contend, however, that using fire is sheer barbarity.

What makes matters even more confusing is that Lawler sometimes seems to be the same sportsman he has always been. He's usually willing to spend time after cards meeting his fans and signing autographs. He's still the most loved personality in the history of Memphis wrestling, and his presence on CWA cards results in a flood of ticket sales. The only difference is that



Jerry Lawler is respected as an honorable AWA World champion. In an increasing number of bouts, however, his actions have been anything but honorable.

when he faces certain opponents—like Von Erich—he seems to change in both demeanor and ring style.

One thing Lawler has changed for the better, however, is the wrestling world's perception of the AWA World title. Lawler has been extremely busy traveling the world defending a belt that had been tarnished by a string of champions who utilized non-title bouts and disqualifications to prolong their title reigns. No

one can deny that Lawler has truly been a fighting champion.

Sports Review Wrestling Associate Editor David Rosenbaum ventured to Dallas to speak with Lawler about his recent title defenses. Lawler seemed eager to prepare for his SuperClash III main event on December 13 in Chicago, which is being billed as "the ultimate confrontation" between Von Erich and the AWA champion.

Q: Jerry, I'm glad I finally have the chance to speak with you again. It's getting harder and harder to reach you these days. I don't think a wrestler could possibly be any busier than you are now.

A: Boy, you're not kidding, Dave. It seems like every challenger in the free world wants a shot at this title. But as you can see, no one has even come close to winning this belt. All the travel is taking a pretty good toll on me, though! (laughs)

Q: Many are beginning to think that the *intensity* of your incredibly violent series of matches against Kerry Von Erich may be taking its toll on you as well. A lot of the fans are quite shocked about your recent actions.

A: Really? I'm surprised to hear that. To me, it's obvious that my opponents are driving me to do a lot of the things I've had to do lately.

Q: What has Kerry done to incite you? He's one of the greatest scientific talents of the past 20 years.

A: Sure, I agree with that. I really do.

Q: So why did you attack him before that title vs. title match in Dallas? Perhaps more important, why have you been wrestling with such reckless abandon against him? The matches between you two have gone from thrilling scientific matches to displays of all-out savagery.

A: No beating around the bush, eh, Dave? I respect that, and I have to admit that I also respect Kerry as a wrestler as much as you do. He's got as much talent as anyone I've ever faced inside that ring. It's the other things about him I don't like, and I don't feel I should have to put up with his guff any more.

Q: What guff? What do you mean?

A: For the past few months, Kerry has given a lot of interviews to TV reporters and print journalists. He's telling everybody that the World Class title is the equal of the AWA World title. That's nothing more than a self-serving, vicious lie, and I'm enraged by it. World



Lawler wrangles World Class champion Kerry Von Erich into a sleeper. Not only have these two champions put their respective belts on the line against each other, they have actually teamed up to fight common enemies.

Class is a fine independent federation, but the AWA is the acknowledged home of the *only* World title that really means anything. Comparing the World Class belt to this one is like comparing the CBA title to the NBA championship—you just can't do it. He's lying about his credentials to everybody. I don't run around telling folks I'm the World Class champ, do I?

Q: I can understand how you feel, but everyone I've talked to couldn't believe that you blindsided Kerry before that match in Dallas. Neither can I.

A: To be honest with you, the events of that day forced my hand. Von

Erich had spent about a week before that match telling the public that *he* had challenged *me*, when everybody knows that I put out feelers to every champion in wrestling. Kerry was the only one who had enough guts to answer my challenge, but I won't allow *anybody* to lie to the fans about it.

Q: So your feelings drove you to attack him. With just one punch, you bloodied him and knocked him out.

A: It is true that I hit Kerry before the bell. But where *was* the bell? I stood in the ring for over five minutes waiting for him to show up, and then when he finally *did* arrive—after I was forced to watch

him kiss and hug his fans for a few more minutes—he suddenly wanted to shake hands. The man who has spent months belittling the AWA title wants to play patty-cake, huh? Well, no way, pal. Then, those cowardly World Class officials wouldn't even let us wrestle!

Q: The most confusing thing about all this is that three days later you *teamed* with Kerry against Tommy Rich and Buddy Landell in Memphis. Since when do enemies form a tag team?

A: Look, just because I don't see eye-to-eye with someone doesn't mean I can't tag up with him. Like I said before, Kerry is a great wrestler. I need no less than the best by my side when I go up against animals like Landell and Rich. It paid off, because the record book shows that we won that match by countout.

Q: That's true. But Landell was counted out after you threw a fireball into his chest. I understand that Landell was burned very badly, and you've burned Ron Garvin recently, too.

A: What is this, the Spanish Inquisition or something? Dave, I've known you for a long time, but you're starting to treat me like a common rulebreaker now. Everyone knows that I will only throw fire when I believe my life is in danger. That was an "everything goes" match, and if you remember correctly, Landell had me in quite a predicament when I burned him. Why should I allow myself to be beaten to death when I can defend myself? I have to take care of myself since I'm defending this title on an almost nightly basis.

Q: You really do deserve credit for that. You've taken on scores of top contenders in the past few months. I guess it's true that you've redefined what a real fighting champion is.

A: That's exactly right. Look at the people I've met and defeated: Wahoo McDaniel, Buddy Landell, Tommy Rich, Austin Idol, Von Erich
(Continued on page 46)



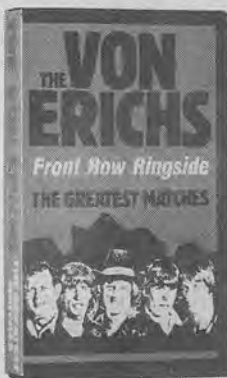
Wahoo McDaniel twists Lawler's arm (above); Lawler has given McDaniel title shots even though he considers him a friend. Lawler posts Tommy Rich (below); "The King" and Von Erich have teamed against Rich and Buddy Landell.





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AWA/WORLD CLASS/CWA

EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW OF

Jerry Lawler, Kerry Von Erich, Sgt. Slaughter, Jeff Jarrett, the CWA are set to converge on Chicago for SuperClash III! packed preview of what is destined

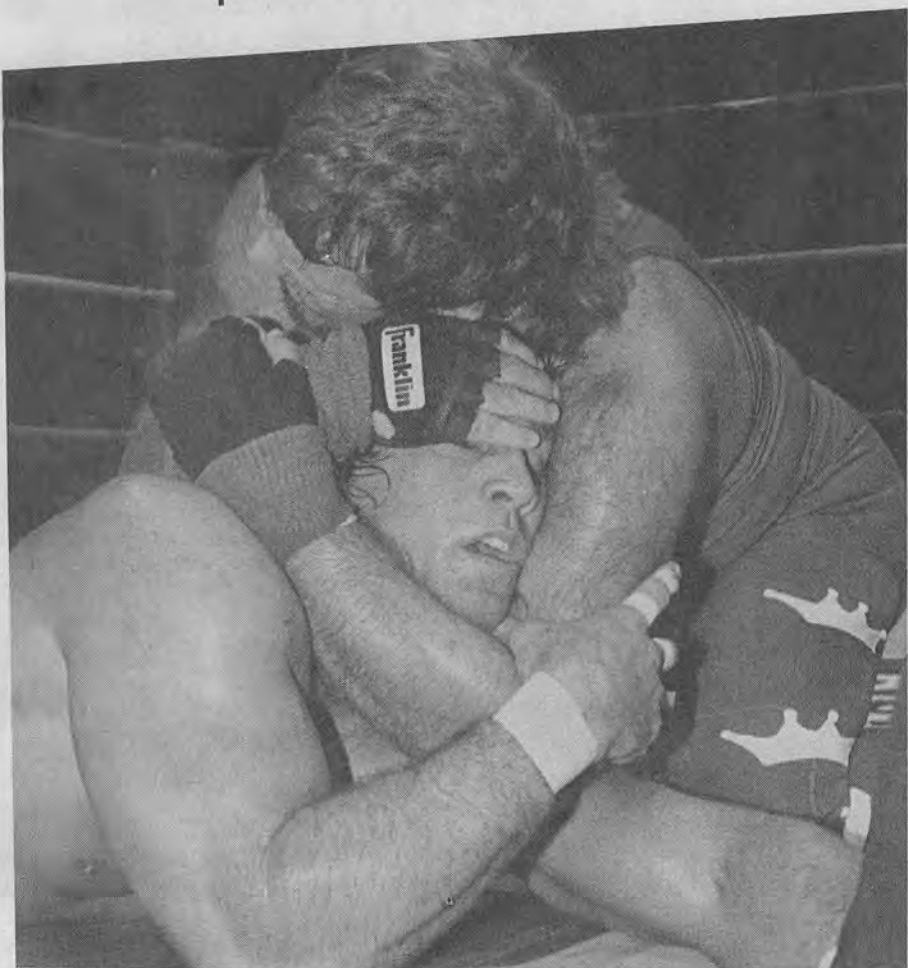
"PUTTING THIS CARD together was the most damnable thing I've ever had to do!"

So said AWA President Stanley Blackburn—with a chuckle—on September 17 in Memphis, the date the AWA's long-awaited "big announcement" was finally made. "I'm glad we all hung in there," Blackburn continued, "because now we're all ready to go. I truly believe this is going to be the biggest wrestling event of the year."

So do many others. In a rare display of promotional cooperation, officials from the AWA, World Class, and CWA have worked together in promoting SuperClash III, a giant card of wrestling that will feature the top stars of all three federations. This highly anticipated event will take place on December 13 at the UIC Pavilion in Chicago and be offered nationally on pay-per-view television.

SuperClash III will feature some important matchups—not the least of which is the confrontation between AWA World champion Jerry Lawler and World Class champion Kerry Von Erich. There *must* be a winner in this battle of champions.

"I think this card is important to the future of the entire sport," said World Class matchmaker Frank



Kerry Von Erich is having a hard time fighting Jerry Lawler's sleeper. AWA World champ Lawler and World Class titlist Von Erich are set to meet—perhaps for the final time—at SuperClash III, a pay-per-view spectacular on December 13 in Chicago.

Dusek. "We're out to prove that there's a lot more to wrestling than just the WWF and NWA. In my eyes, the AWA, World Class, and CWA take a back seat to no one when it comes to providing the

kind of excitement the public wants."

The fans are ready. The wrestlers are primed and set to go. Now join *Sports Review Wrestling* for an exclusive preview of SuperClash III!

SPECTACULAR: SUPERCLASH III!

Wendi Richter—the top stars of the AWA, World Class, and on December 13. Join *Sports Review Wrestling* for an action-to become a classic event!

JERRY LAWLER VS. KERRY VON ERICH

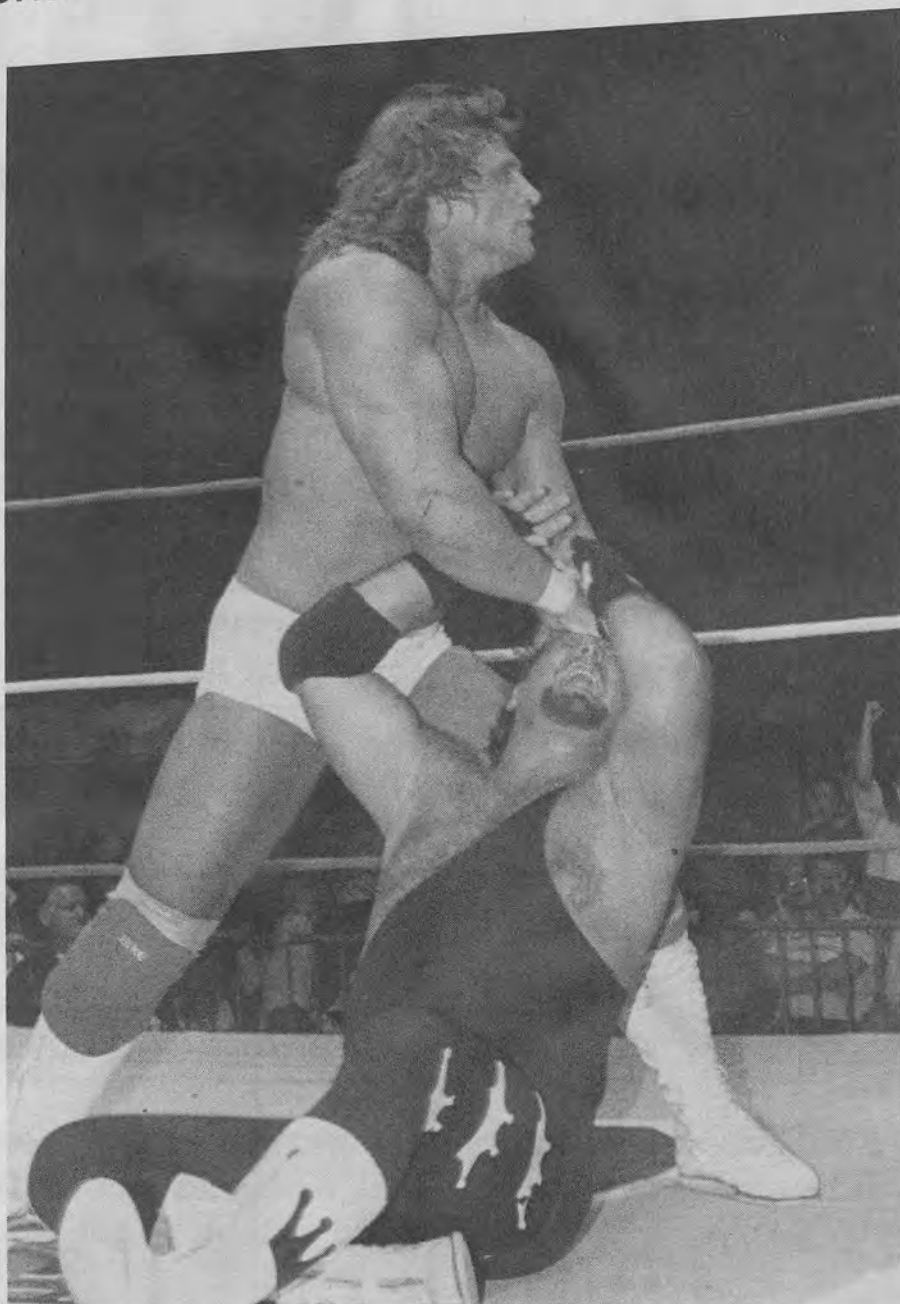
"Lawler's going to pay for what he's done to me," claims Kerry Von Erich, the victim of a brutal assault before his September 9 match against Lawler in Dallas. "It's gone far beyond unifying a couple of titles now. This matter has become *personal*."

Indeed, the numerous Lawler-Von Erich title vs. title matches were once thrilling scientific matches pitting two of wrestling's most popular stars against each other. More recently, however, these matches have resembled total wars—and *neither* man has been abiding by the rulebook.

"Von Erich is a paper champion," claims Lawler, who has held the AWA World title since May 9. "He's been running around saying that his World Class title is the equal of the AWA belt. Well, it isn't—and he's not close to being the wrestler that I am, either. Let's get this damn thing over with."

While both wrestlers admit to respecting each other, it's clear that neither one likes the other very much. This SuperClash main event could turn out to be a fitting finale for a feud that has been burning up the country for months.

(Continued on page 50)



The famous Von Erich claw makes Lawler scream in pain. The odd thing about this title vs. title feud is that both men have teamed together to fight common enemies.

COMING DECEMBER 20: ***THE BIG ONE!***

***The Spectacular
Year-End Double Issue Of***



***The Most Celebrated Magazine Event Of The Year—
Don't Miss It!***

100 power-packed pages, including full-color full-page portraits of 1988's best wrestlers and matches!

Achievement '88 award winners in 10 categories

The riotous, ridiculous, and revealing 1988:
The Year In Review

Exclusive "*PW*Index" of every wrestler who appeared in the pages of *PWI*—and its sister publications—for the entire year!

Your own "Unofficial Official Awards" for 1988

Predictions for 1989

Special features and columns

PWI's incredible 100-page super spectacular year-end collectors' edition is cover-dated "March 1989" and goes on sale December 20; it's sure to be a newsstand sellout, so get yours early!

Go With The Leader—The Best Keeps Getting Better!

SPECIAL SECTION: RANDY SAVAGE'S CAREER IN

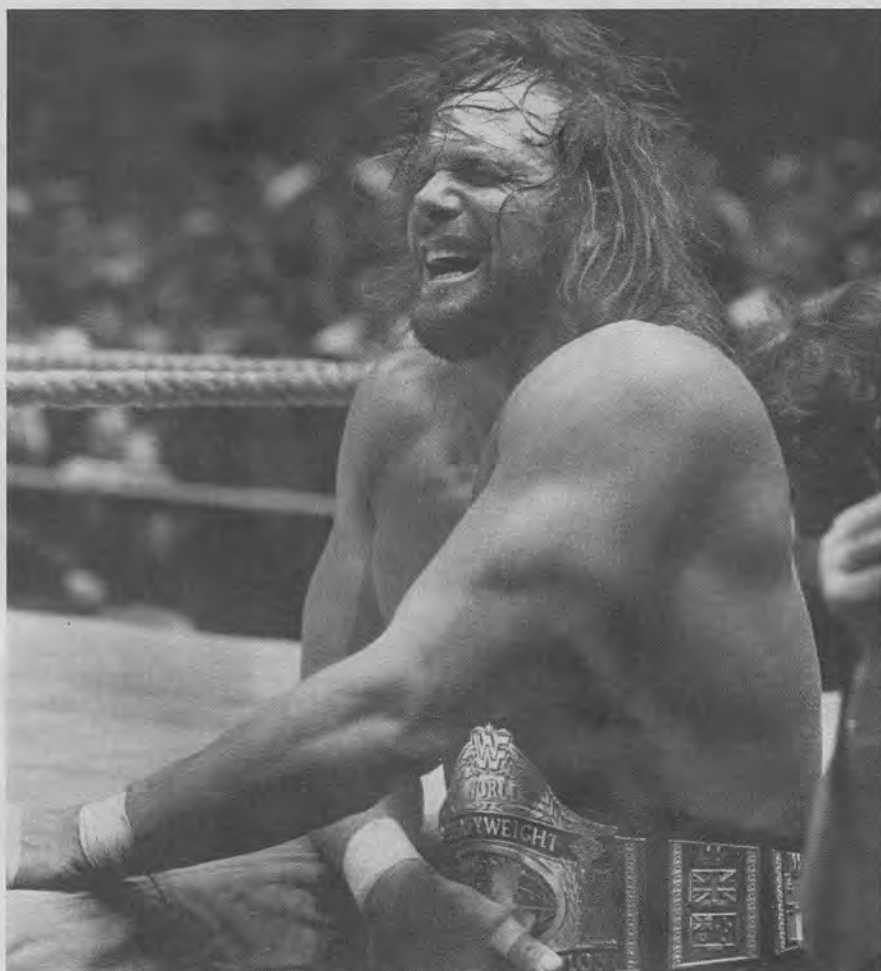
PICTURES

ATENTION, RANDY SAVAGE fans: There was a "Macho Man" long before there was an Elizabeth. While the comely manager has been a large part of Savage's recent success, the WWF World heavyweight champion was a successful wrestler—and champion—for years before he came to the WWF.

Poffo, the son of legendary high-flying grappler Angelo Poffo, was a pro baseball player before he was a pro wrestler. But he longed to step into the ring, so he wrestled under a mask as "The Spider" for several years. When his minor-league baseball career came to an end, he devoted himself full-time to wrestling.

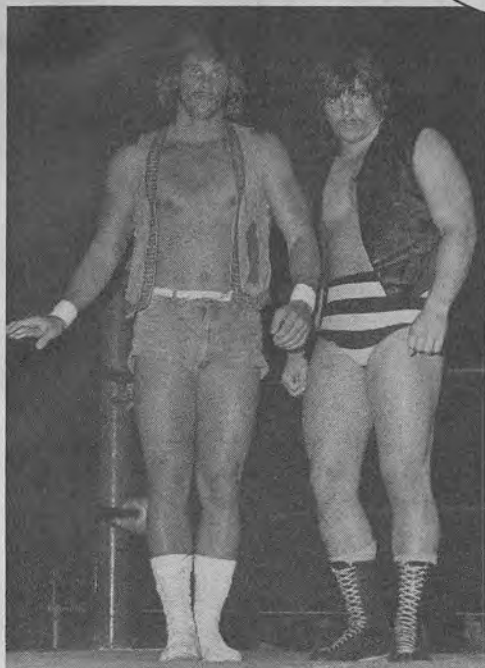
While the "Macho Man" (then known as Randy Poffo) was in Georgia in 1976, Ole Anderson gave him the name Savage because, Ole said, "he wrestled like a savage!" After leaving Georgia, Savage teamed with his brother

(Continued on page 54)



WWF World champion Randy Savage is unquestionably one of the greatest wrestlers in the world today. In this special section, *Sports Review Wrestling* takes a close look at the "Macho Man" and why he has achieved such great success. "Macho Madness" rules!

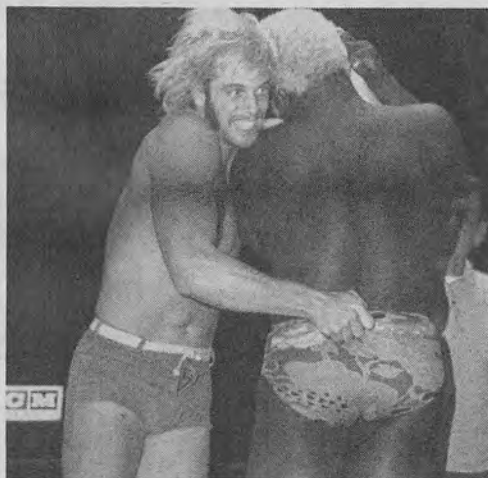
The Early Years



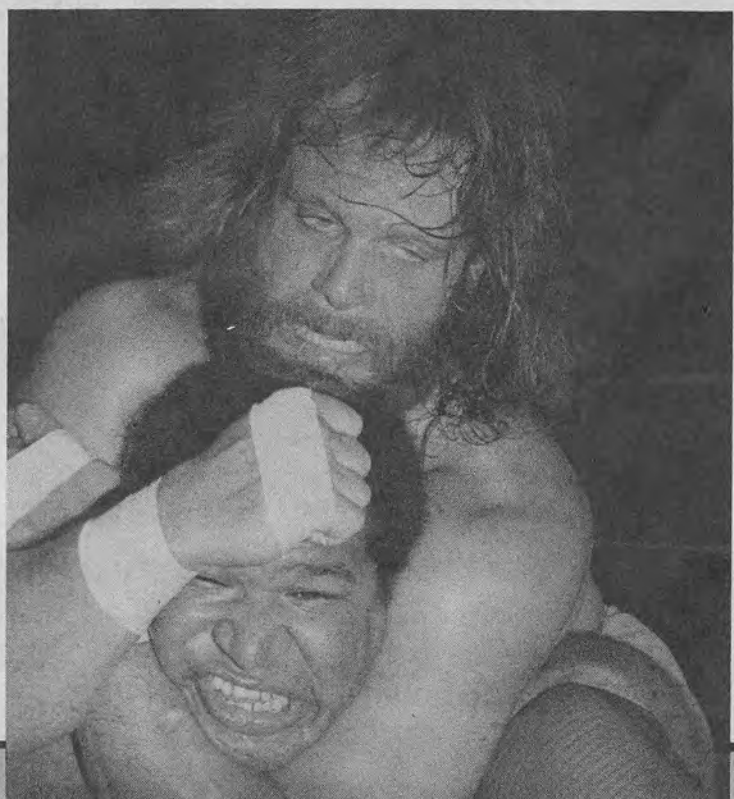
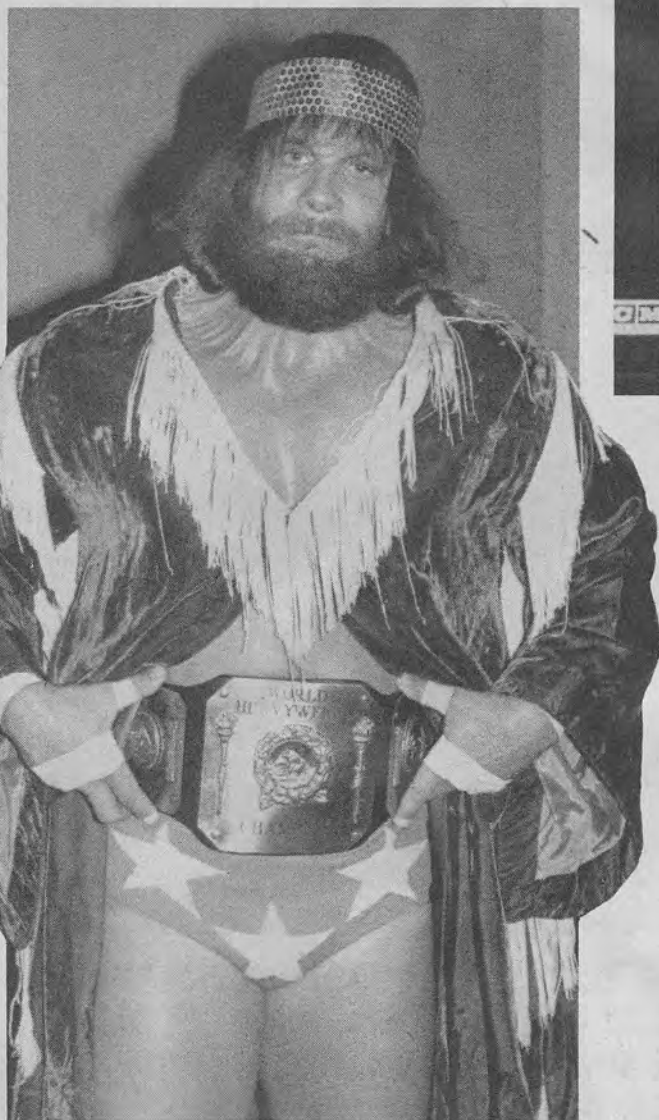
Savage and his brother Lanny Poffo were the Southeastern tag team champions early in their careers.



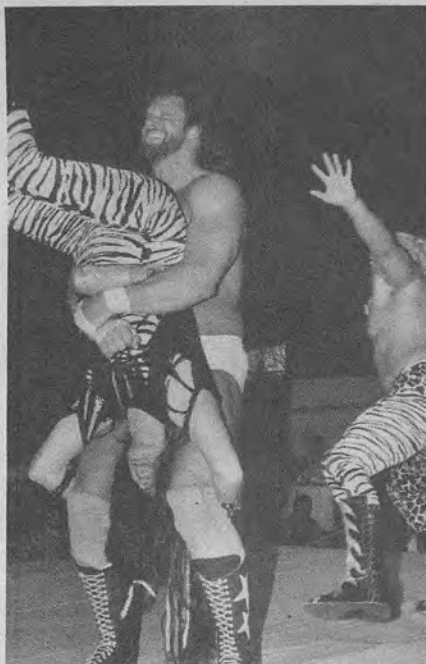
Savage proved himself as a wrestler with a tough fight against Sweet Daddy Siki in 1976 (above and left).



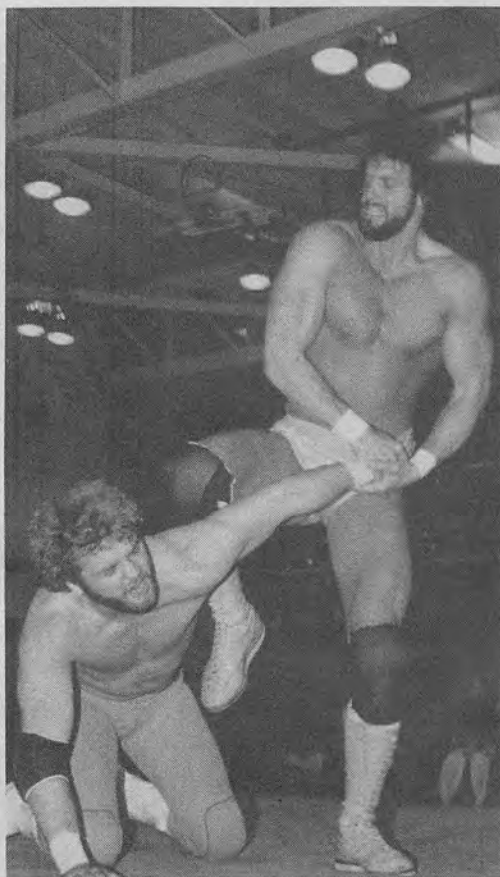
In 1979, Savage became the ICW champion (far left) by defeating his brother Lanny. He chinlocks Tiger Conway in a match near the end of his four-year reign (below).



The Molding Of A Star



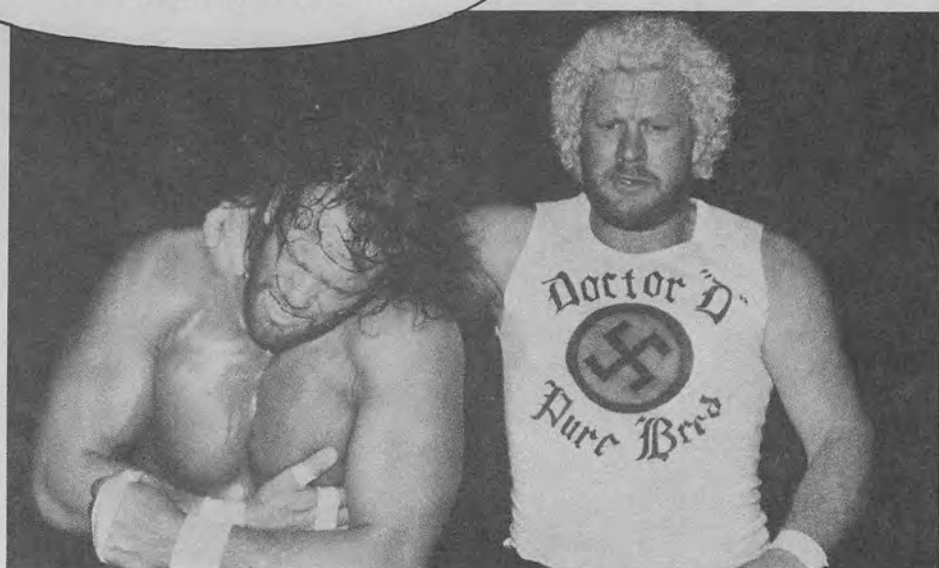
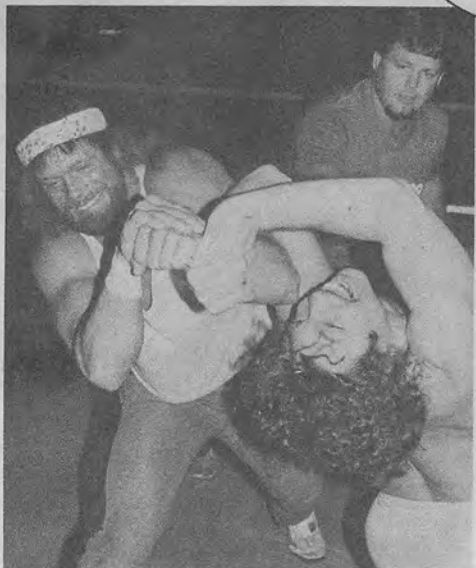
Savage piledrives Adrian Street's valet, Miss Linda (left). With a great effort, the "Macho Man" backs King Kong Bundy into a corner (above left). After throwing the ringsteps at Jerry Lawler, Savage gets hit by Lawler's fireball (above right).



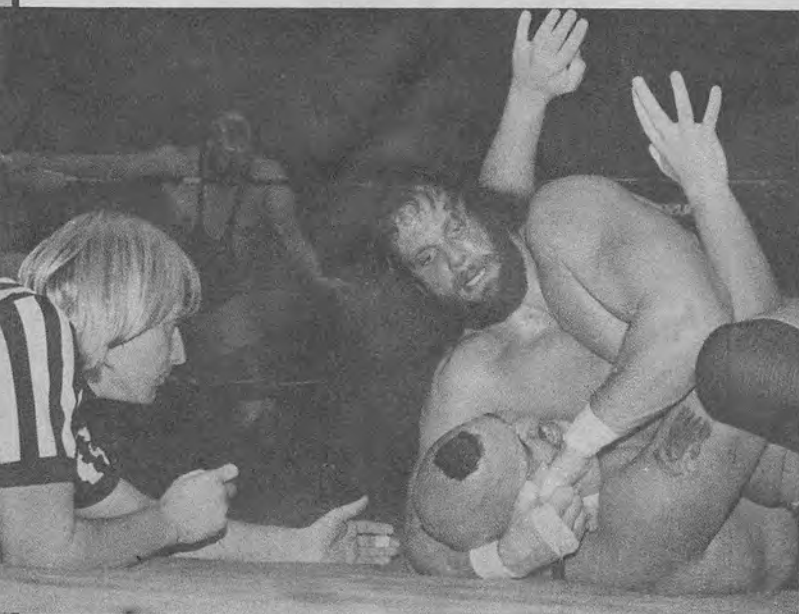
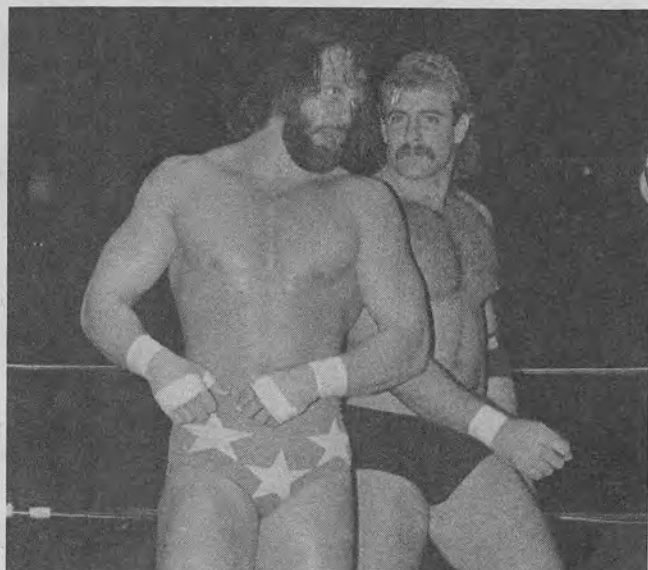
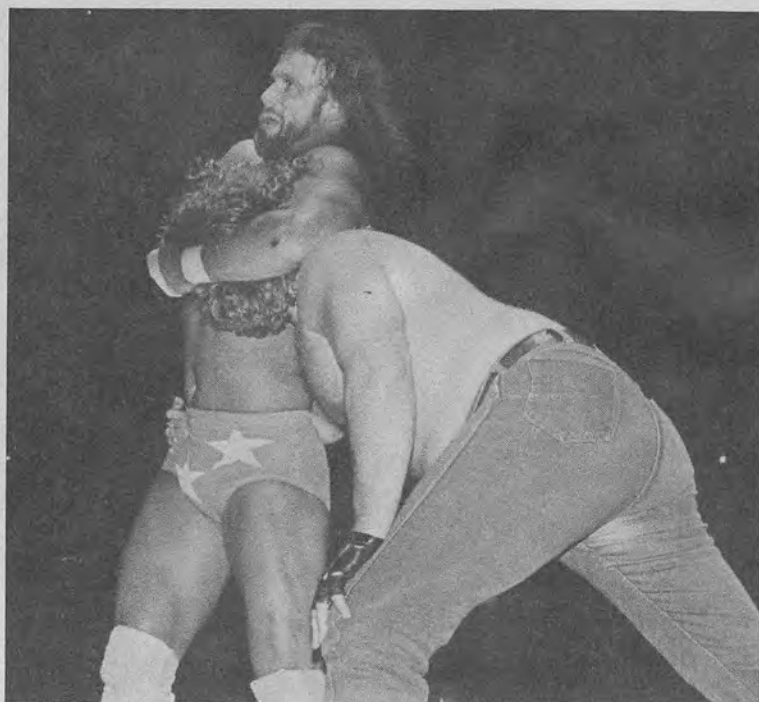
Savage twists Eddie Gilbert's arm (above). The bloody war with Lawler (top right) was an exciting part of Savage's Mid-Southern career. Savage teams with his father, Angelo Poffo, and his manager, Jimmy Hart (right).



The Molding Of A Star



The "Macho Man" tangles up with brother Lanny as Lawler referees (top left); this match in an empty arena was held exclusively for our sister publication *Wrestling 85*. Savage has teamed several times with David Shultz (above).

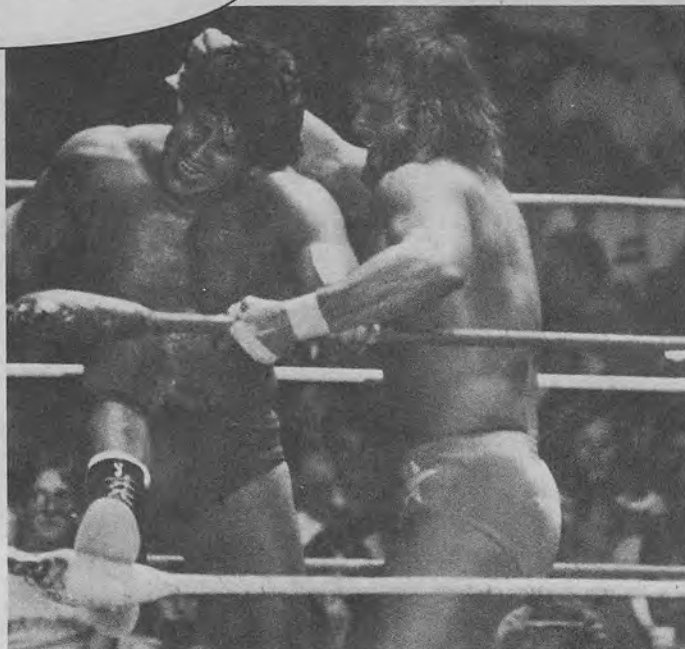


Savage headlocks Bill Irwin (top left) and executes the same hold on The Mongolian (left). In that match, Savage was partnered with Magnum T.A. (top). He has also teamed with Tommy Rich (above).

The Road To The Title



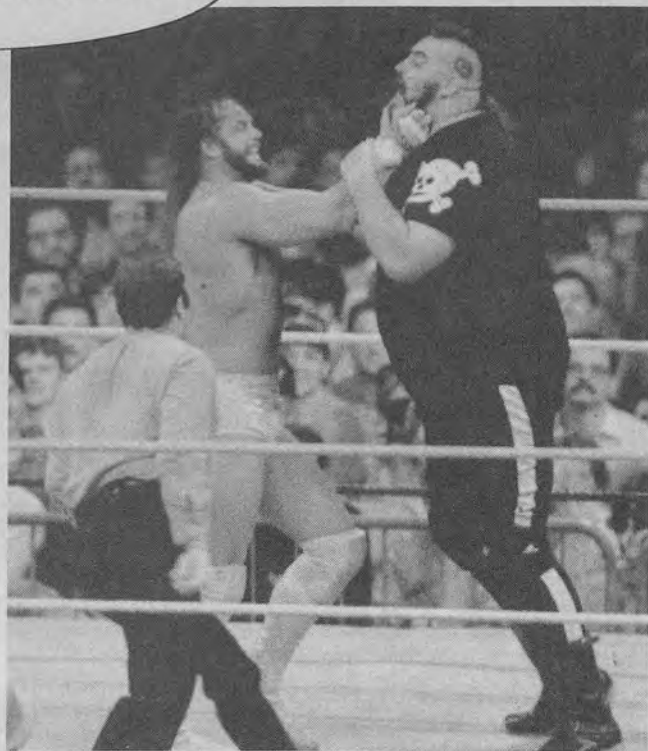
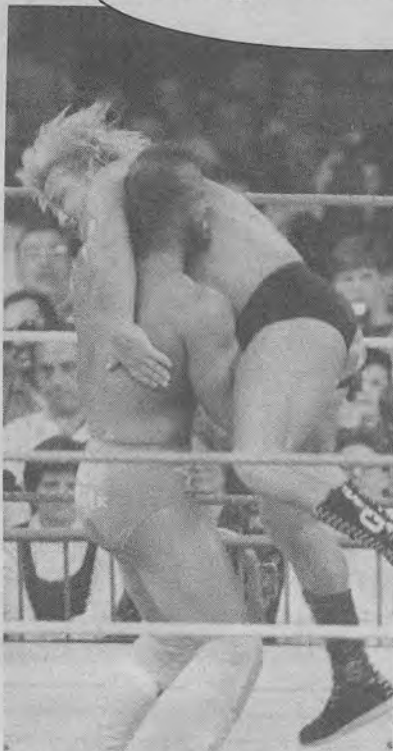
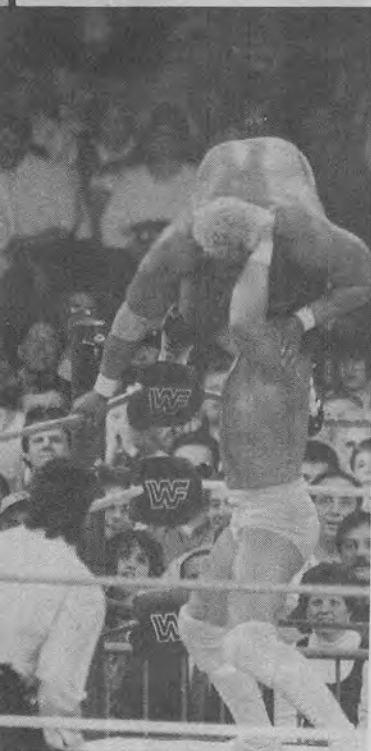
The "Macho Man" bangs Rick Steamboat's head into the cage (above). He runs Tito Santana's head into the turnbuckle (right); Savage won the Intercontinental belt from Santana.



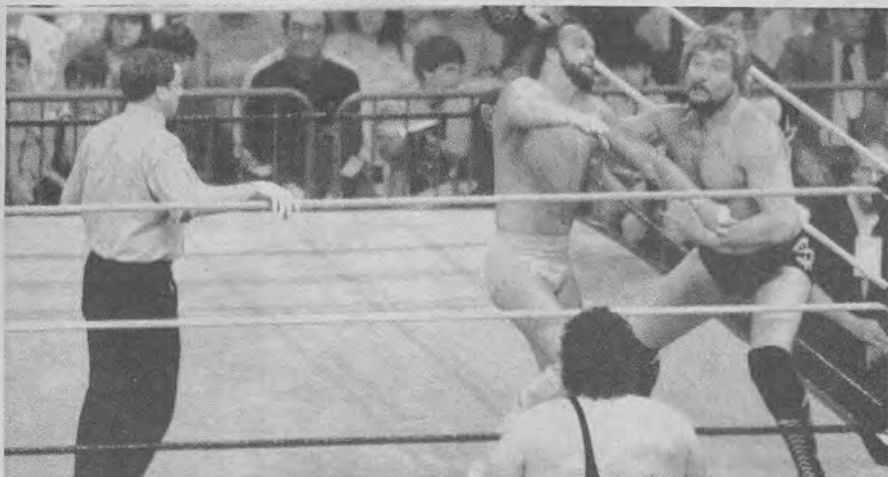
Savage chases George Steele (above left), who once vied for Elizabeth's affection. In one of his first WWF matches, "Macho Man" chinlocks Paul Orndorff (above right). Savage pulls The Honky Tonk Man off the mat (left). Randy had some intense WWF title matches with Hulk Hogan (right).



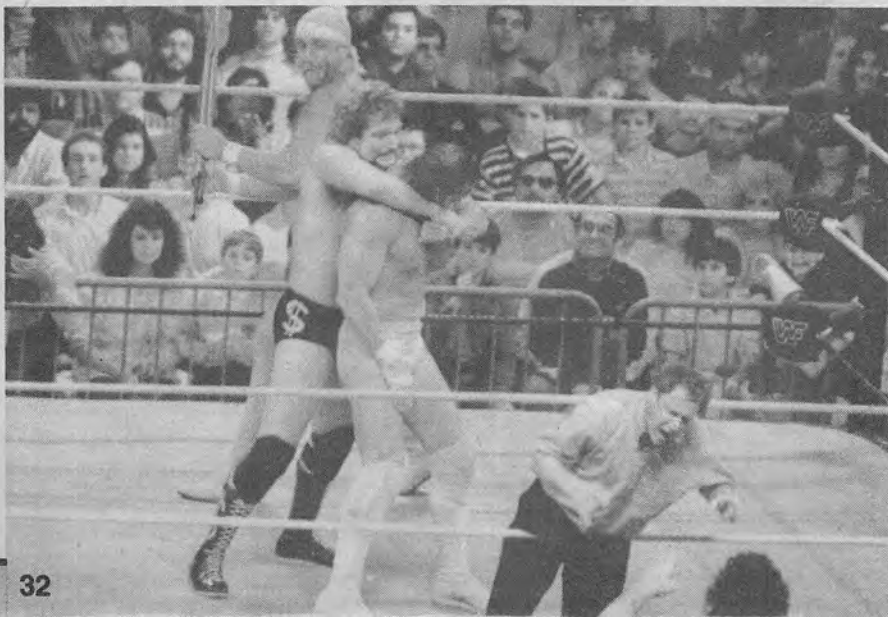
Savage Wins WWF Belt



Savage prevents Butch Reed from executing a flying maneuver (above left), slams Greg Valentine (above center), and pulls One Man Gang's beard (above right) in his first three wins at the WrestleMania IV World title tournament.

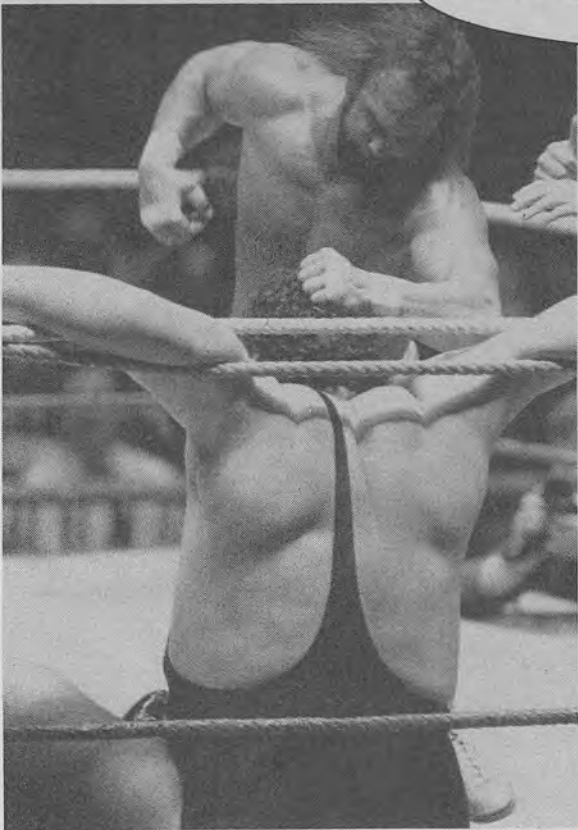


Ted DiBiase whips Savage into the corner (above). As Andre the Giant argues with the ref, Hogan provides the interference that will help Savage win the title (below).

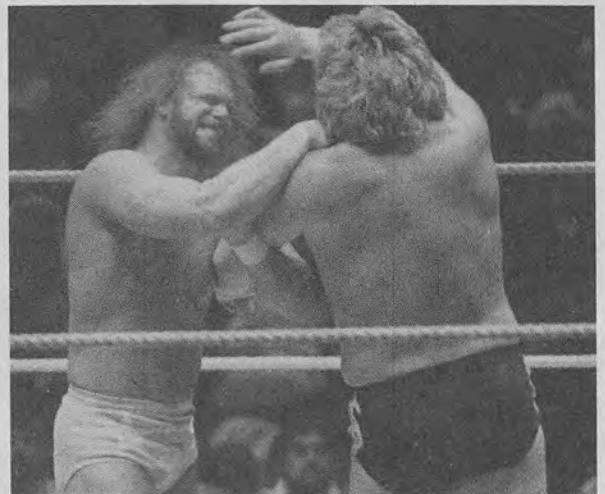
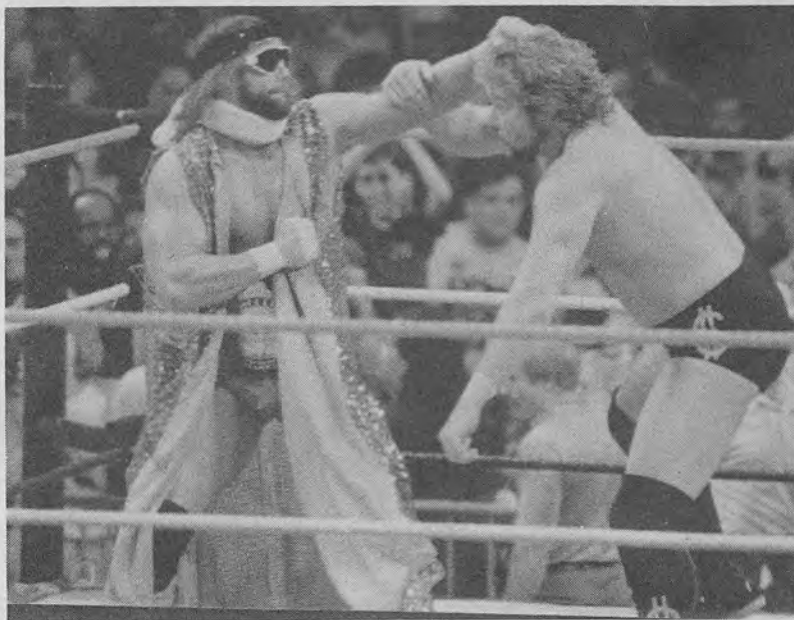


Elizabeth and Savage celebrate their victory. She is the only manager ever to lead the same man to both the WWF Intercontinental and World titles.

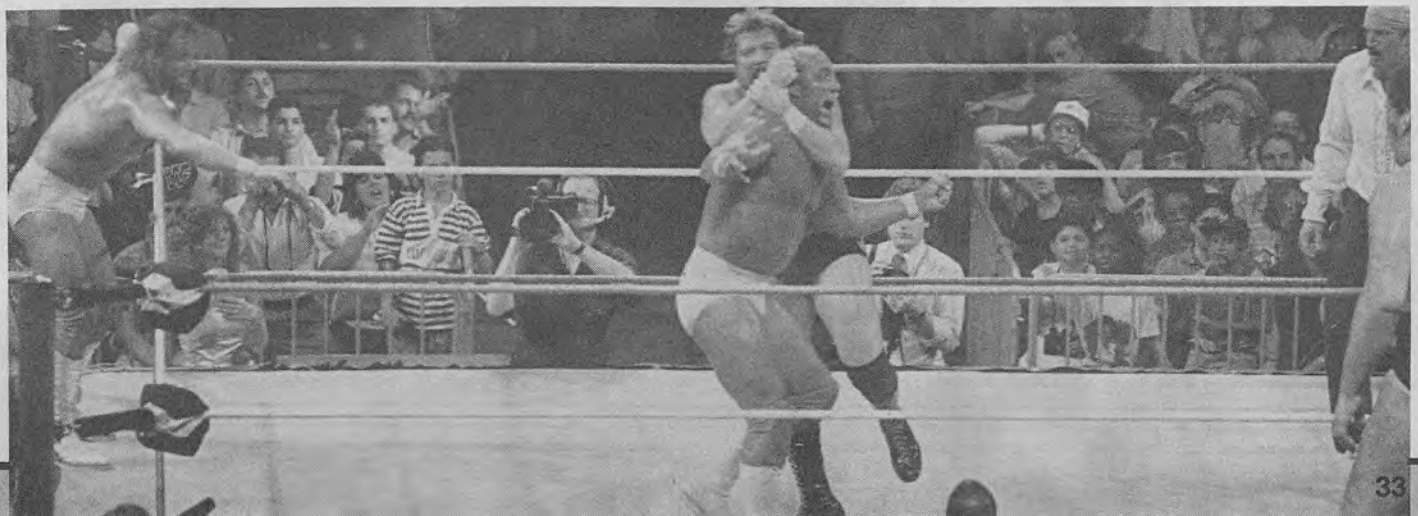
Championship Defenses



The champion has Andre tied up in the ropes (left) and tries to get him back in the ring (above). The "Macho Man" has handled the massive Andre with difficulty, but the belt is still his.



Still clad in his ring robe, the "Macho Man" slugs it out with DiBiase (left). In another match, the combatants struggle for an advantage (above). Savage asks Hogan for the tag during their SummerSlam battle against DiBiase and Andre (below).



**Dillon
On One
Side,**

**You
On The
Other**



TUG-

ARE YOU STRONGER than J.J. Dillon? Is your energy and enthusiasm enough to overcome his money, will, and power? Will your screams drown out his temptations?

Can you beat J.J. Dillon? Can you win the tug-of-war for Sting?

The situation is clear. On one side is Dillon, the richest, most persuasive, most influential manager in the NWA. He stole Lex Luger from your hearts for almost a year. Then he took away Barry Windham.

Think about it: Over the past two years, Dillon has been able to sign two of the biggest fan favorites in all of wrestling.

And now that he has lost Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson to the WWF, now that The Four Horsemen are down to two Horsemen, he has a couple of spots to fill. It's common knowledge that

***With only two of
The Four Horsemen
remaining, J.J.
Dillon is desperate
to add Sting to his
stable. But the fans
are equally
desperate to make
sure that never
happens. Can love
overcome money?
Can you win the tug-
of-war with Dillon
for this young star?***

he'd like to have Sting on his team.

But on the other side stand you, the fans. Your love for Sting has

been made clear by your reaction when he comes to the ring and your support for him during his matches. The recent "Win A Phone Call From Sting" contest in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* drew fan response in record numbers. He is currently third in our "Most Popular" ratings, behind only the immensely popular Randy Savage and Hulk Hogan.

It's very clear: You're crazy about Sting.

But will that be enough to keep him?

"I'd never let down the fans," Sting insisted. "I've been on the other side with the fans rooting against me, and let me tell you something, it's a lot better on *this* side. A heckuva lot better! The fans give me my energy, and I give *them* energy. It's like this incredible exchange of energy, and
(Continued on page 56)



Sting puts the scorpion leglock on U.S. champion Barry Windham (above left). Windham's Four Horsemen compatriot, NWA World champion Ric Flair, is the recipient of a Sting legdrop (above right).

WHO WILL WIN THE TUG-OF-WAR FOR STING?

Sports Review Fantasy Special

CHERYL LEAVES

JAKE

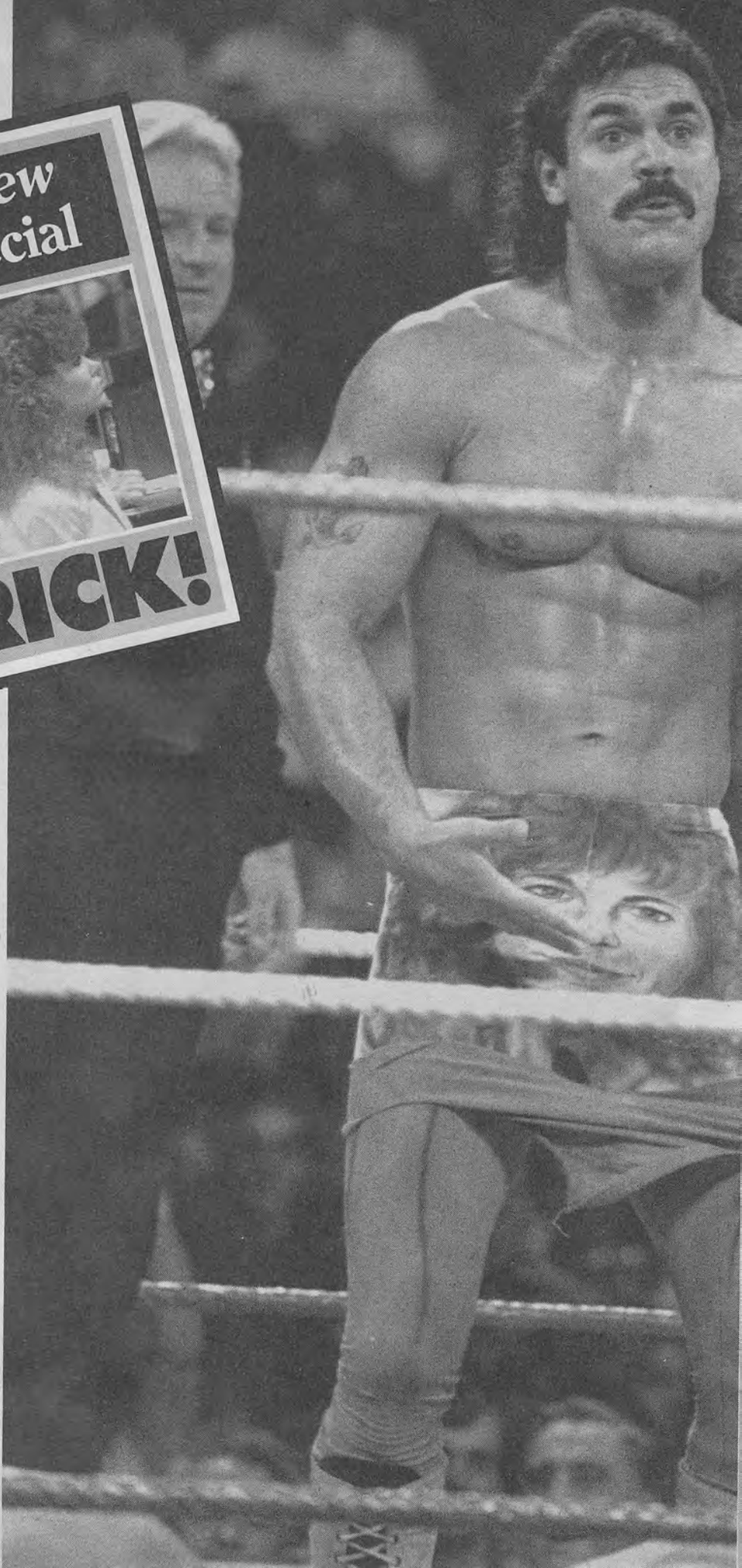
FOR RICK!



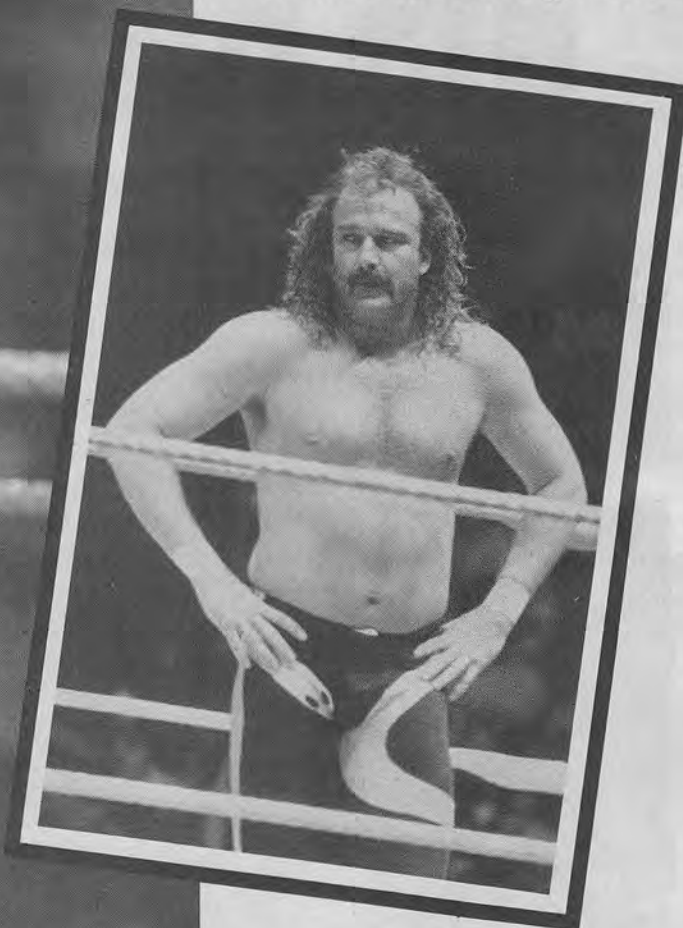
"NO, IT CAN'T end this way!" he shouted, but somehow he knew she was telling him the truth: that it was over, that she was leaving him for that evil slime, the man he had fought against for so long, the man they *both* agreed was against everything they stood for.

As the words he thought he'd never hear flew past him, Jake Roberts thought back to the day he was married. He remembered standing on the altar and seeing this beautiful woman, this dream, coming down the aisle in an angelic white dress and veil, then suddenly realizing she would be his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Jake Roberts. Jake and Cheryl—forever.

But now, before Jake could realize it, his dreams had turned to nightmares. When did that happen? When did it start? And the hardest question of all—how did he know so little about her? That hurt him most of all. He thought he knew



Don't worry, fans, it's just a fantasy! Now that Jake Roberts has disposed of Rick Rude, there's no way Cheryl Roberts is going to leave her husband for Rude. But what if it *did* happen? What if Rude's impossible dream and Jake's worst nightmare came true? Read on!



Somehow, for some reason . . .

Jake loves Cheryl and Rick loves Cheryl—but Cheryl loves Rick. So Cheryl leaves Jake for Rick.

Cheryl had always been disgusted by Rude's vulgarity and the way he treated women. She couldn't believe that he had the nerve to treat women like pieces of meat, to just pick them from the crowd and expect them to behave as he wanted. She couldn't believe that he could kiss them so passionately for all the world to see. She couldn't believe that any woman could be drawn to such a man.

But week after week, she saw them up there, and they all seemed to love it. He would plant his lips on their lips, and they seemed to be in heaven. These women would breathlessly fall to the mat and look up longingly while Rude went through his disgusting gyrations.

Cheryl, however, easily resisted his advances. It really wasn't a problem. She truly loved her husband and was genuinely disgusted by Rude. And she was honored that Jake would fight for her, that he would put aside his desire for championships so that he could protect his wife's honor.

She was disgusted again when Rude started wearing *those* tights, the ones with her likeness on the front. Now she didn't just *want* Jake to fight for her, she *told* him to.

But then something strange happened, something totally unexpected. The more Jake fought, the more he beat Rude inside and outside the ring, the more Rude

(Continued on page 60)

everything about Cheryl, but he had misjudged her. He thought Rick Rude was the *last* man his Cheryl would ever fall for, but he was so heartbreakingly wrong.

"I'd like the divorce to be as clean as possible," she said. "I don't want any of your money, I don't want the house, I don't want the car. I just want to get out of this and marry Rick. We love each other. I didn't want to hurt you, but . . ."

But her words stuck like a dagger in his heart, and he knew he couldn't get his beloved back by beating Rude in the ring or attacking him during a match. He had already beaten Rude so many times, but it didn't seem to matter.

Ric Flair has faced the world's finest wrestlers and beaten them. Now the NWA World champion is finding out that his toughest battle isn't against any physical opponent, it's against history itself!

RIC FLAIR'S HIS BATTLE

"YOU'RE A BUM, Flair. You're a no-good bum!" yelled one fan as five-time NWA champion Ric Flair made his way toward the ring. A hail of debris followed him.

This is not how world champions should be treated.

"You got a problem, fat boy?" Flair snarled angrily. The champ has received this type of welcome before.

"Yeah, I got a problem, 'Nature Boy,'" the fan goaded. "You're the problem. You never win any of your matches! What kind of champion are you?"

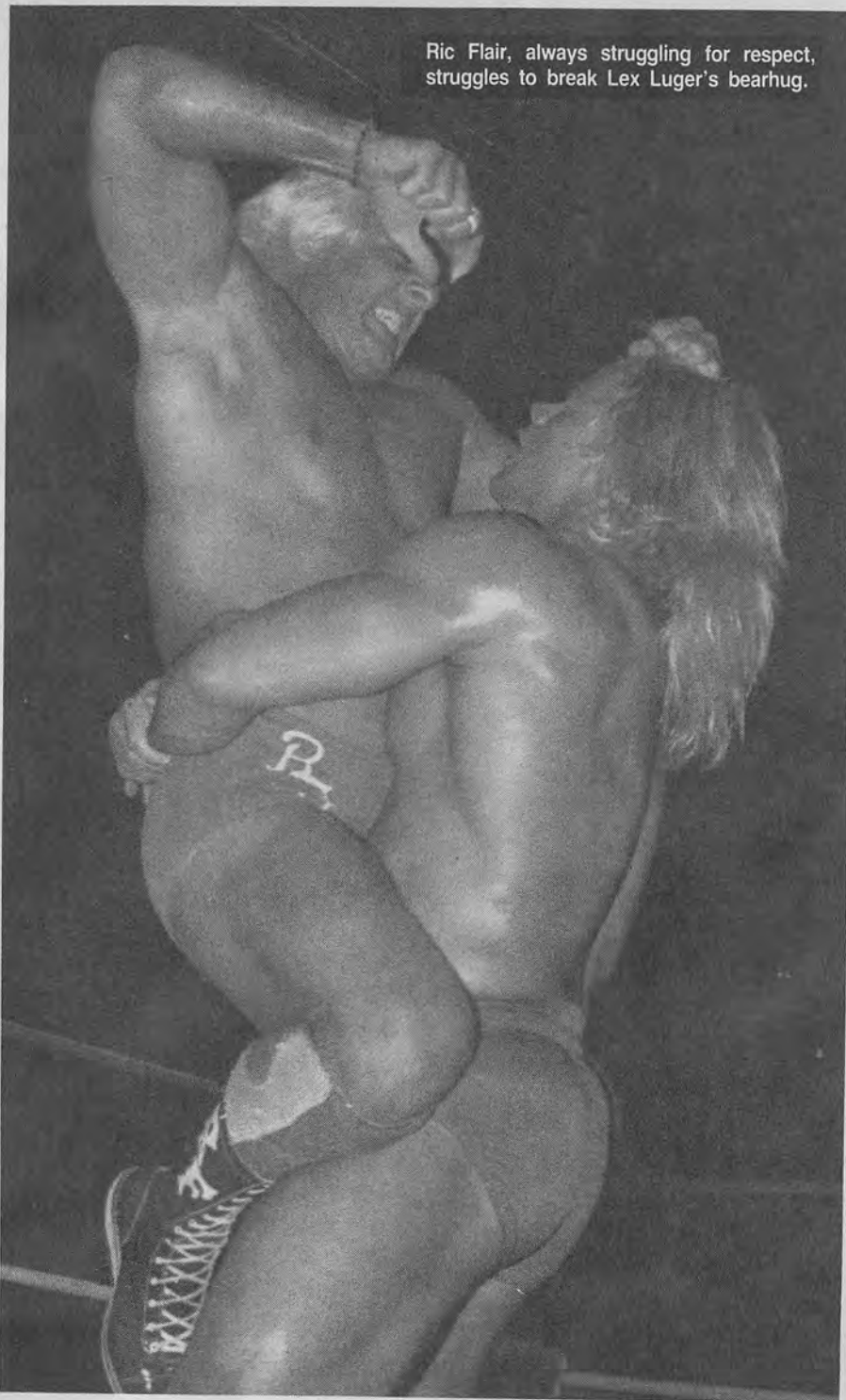
But by the time the angry fan had finished, Flair had already entered the ring. As regal as ever, Flair paraded and preened for the fans. He was, by way of response, tarred and feathered with a chorus of boos.

Flair doesn't wrestle to be loved, he wrestles for the glory of holding a world title. In fact, most of the time he doesn't even wrestle to win. Why should he? He doesn't need to.

But Flair is caught in the midst of a paradox. A disqualification or countout might help him retain his title, but it does nothing to insure that his name sits at the top of the list of wrestling's greatest champions. Flair's ego demands that he be on that list. But to be there, a wrestler needs to be respected by the fans, by fellow wrestlers, and by himself.

When the night's match was over, Flair had once again survived a Lex Luger onslaught—this time with the help of J.J. Dillon's shoe. Another Luger win by disqualification, another

Ric Flair, always struggling for respect, struggles to break Lex Luger's bearhug.



TOUGHEST BATTLE: FOR RESPECT

er day added to Flair's championship reign—and another chorus of boos from the fans.


"What did I tell you, Flair?" yelled the same fan who had taunted Flair before the bout. "You can't win a match! Luger would have killed you tonight if it weren't for J.J.'s size 11s!"

Flair stopped and stared at the fan. He didn't speak. He simply loosened the World belt from around his waist, held it up, and kissed it. Then, with a characteristic "Whoooooo!" he was gone. The jeers followed him out. These NWA fans were clearly disgusted by their champion.

"He's no champion of mine," Paul Caponigro of Atlanta said after one recent Flair-Luger match. "If he'd pin some of his opponents, then maybe I could respect him. But as it is now, he deserves no respect." Caponigro's opinion is shared by most fans.

Fans know what respect for a champion is. Many NWA fans will, when pressed, openly admit that their champion is not nearly as worthy of respect as is AWA World champion Jerry Lawler. When it comes to respect, Lawler tops the list.

"Yeah, Lawler's great," said NWA loyalist Mitchell Ashley. "Every time you look up, he's defending his title in a different place. He's battling Kerry Von Erich in Texas, he's taking on Ronnie Garvin in Memphis, he's taking on anybody who issues a challenge! *That's* a champion. Not like Flair, though. Yeah, Flair leaves the federation sometimes, but when



Flair would be more of a champion, many fans say, if he defended his title outside the NWA, in a manner similar to AWA champ Jerry Lawler.



Flair saves J.J. Dillon from the agony of Luger's backbreaker (above). The champion knees Luger away from Arn Anderson (below). The "Nature Boy" is finding that having the World title doesn't automatically entitle him to respect.



he gets in trouble like he always does, all he has to do is reach back and there's J.J.'s shoe. Some champion!"

Fellow wrestlers have also begun to lose respect for Flair. More and more, as Flair continues to be *the* dominant

NWA star of the '80s, his opponents have been coming forward to challenge his claims to greatness.

"No, I don't question that he's great," Luger said. "He's great at what he does. He cheats, he gets counted out, and he throws you

over the top rope better than anyone I've ever faced. The man is the most gutless champion of all time! He belongs face down and bloodied in some gutter somewhere!"

"Lex is right," said Sting, who has faced Flair many times. "I'm not just saying that because Flair's my enemy. In fact, it's just the opposite. Usually, I have *respect* for my enemies. But Flair can't be respected. It's sad, too, because at one time he was a great wrestler. And that's not that long ago! I wrestled him for 45 minutes in March and didn't beat him. Almost, but I didn't. Then he dodged me for months! He has to be *forced* to give a guy a title shot!"

His opponents' criticisms don't diminish Flair's exuberance during interviews. Of late, the champion has been demanding that he, not legendary NWA champions like Harley Race and Lou Thesz, deserves the sport's greatest acclaim.

"If there were a book called *Wrestling's Greatest Champions*," Flair yelled, "my picture would be on the cover!"

But to be on the cover, you need to be respected. The fans have long abandoned him, and his challengers have ridiculed him. Maybe the question should be: Does he still have any *self-respect* left?

"Self-respect? You're asking me about self-respect?" Flair demanded. "Of course I have self-respect. I also have this belt and my place in history. I'm the greatest wrestler of all time!"

Flair's high opinion of himself doesn't mask his true intentions. He knows he can practically sleepwalk through intense challenges and wait for help from Dillon. But that's no way to insure his place in history.

If Flair doesn't soon change his ways, he risks permanently losing the respect that should be far more important to him than his title. If he can't win that battle, Flair will be voted into a kind of wrestling Hall of Shame, not Hall of Fame.

Right now, that vote would be unanimous. □



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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 7)

A SHOCKER

I just got back from an NWA card here in Norfolk and I had no one to write to except *Sports Review Wrestling*. I don't think anyone but your readers would appreciate what I am about to say. Tonight in Norfolk, The Road Warriors turned bad. Sure, they were always bad, but now they're evil!

In seconds, what was an enjoyable evening of wrestling was shattered. The Warriors had completely dominated their six-man match against The Varsity Club. They didn't even need the help of their partner, Sting. I didn't realize it until the end of the match, however, but they were slighting Sting all along and didn't let him get into the match—for a reason.

During one point in the match, all six men were in the ring. Since it was Sting's first time in the ring the whole match, he went crazy and beat up everyone in sight. It was clear that the Warriors were not happy being shown up like that, so they proceeded to beat up their own partner! It was disgusting.

The Warriors weren't merely content to shove Sting around and make their point, they felt they had to teach him a lesson. They brutalized him and Lex Luger (who had run to the ring to save his friend).

Now, I don't mind if the Warriors want to grab the spotlight, but beating up Sting and Luger goes against everything I had come to expect from them. Maybe I was just expecting too much.

When I got home from the arena, I couldn't even talk to my parents and brothers. They thought I was sick or something. I guess I was. I think I still am.

.WENDY BEWIG
Norfolk, VA

MONSOONING

I am writing to tell you how bad the WWF's *Prime Time Wrestling* show is. I think this is due to the fact that Bobby Heenan and Gorilla Monsoon are terrible together. Thank goodness they added Superstar Billy Graham to the team. At least he has a personality.

I have never encountered a more



In Harlan McLure's opinion, Superstar Graham is an announcer with personality.

bland person than Monsoon. I don't mind that he shows favoritism—in fact, I support it—but he repeats the same worn-out lines and empty praise over and over again. He's just so incredibly boring.

Heenan is a lot better, but for some reason he always looks bored (even when discussing Rick Rude's feud with

(Continued on page 44)



Road Warrior Animal elbowsmashes Lex Luger during The Road Warriors' stunning attack on Luger and Sting. Wendy Bewig was disgusted by Hawk and Animal's actions because she once believed they were capable of being honorable men.

MOVING?

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LEX-PLOSION!

LEX LUGER claims he'll take **RIC FLAIR'S** title—and leave him for dead!



Has **HULK HOGAN** become **RANDY SAVAGE'S** bodyguard?

PLUS . . .

Full-color centerfold plus career bio of **JAKE "THE SNAKE" ROBERTS** . . . **BRUTUS BEEFCAKE** vs. **RON BASS**: Uncensored—and senseless! . . . **COL DeBEERS**: "**SGT. SLAUGHTER** is washed up, just like the U.S.A.!" . . . The fans' astonishing message to **KEVIN VON ERICH**: "Retire now!" . . . "Media Review" and "The *PWI* Poll"

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Inside Wrestling VICTORY SPORTS SERIES



Learn the 10 reasons why **STING** can't beat **BARRY WINDHAM**



Memo to the WWF: It's time to ban the helmet—or ban **HULK HOGAN!**

PLUS . . .

MEGABUCKS, MEGAPOWERS, Megaconfusion! Who you'll cheer and jeer in '89! . . . Exclusive "Hotseat" interview with **ARN ANDERSON**: "**THE FOUR HORSEMEN** were a dynasty, but it's all over now!" . . . **THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS** must split up—or shut up! . . . **KERRY VON ERICH** and **JERRY LAWLER**: Tag Team of the Year or Feud of the Year? . . . **SGT. SLAUGHTER** and **COL. DeBEERS** go "One On One"

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The December 1988 edition of *The Wrestler* was a collectors' dream! It included a dynamic eight-page FULL-COLOR section featuring "The Superstars Of A Super Summer" competing in some of 1988's greatest cards and matches! Included in this exciting full-color section: Hulk Hogan, Sting, Randy Savage, Lex Luger, Rick Rude, The Ultimate Warrior, Jerry Lawler, Ric Flair, Hacksaw Duggan, The Fantastics, Dusty Rhodes, Ted DiBiase, Barry Windham, The Honky Tonk Man, and Nikita Koloff! Also included in this magnificent special issue is a full analysis of the summer's top action, plus all the regular *Wrestler* stories and features. This issue was a newsstand sellout, but we have a limited number of back issues available for the collectors' bargain price of only \$5.00 each. Don't be disappointed—order yours today!

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 42)



Eddie Gilbert is receiving the support of NWA fans in his campaign against the hated Varsity Club. Reader Al Coles hopes Gilbert's switch to fan favorite is permanent.

Jake Roberts). He's very interesting, but only if you can weed your way through his monotone and create your own excitement. You're certainly not going to get any energy from him.

Obviously, the WWF is trying to create another Vince McMahon-Jesse Ventura broadcasting team. I hate to tell them, but there's no comparison. McMahon and Ventura had a rapport that only comes from the clashing of strong personalities. Heenan and Monsoon don't have strong personalities and seem to consciously avoid clashing.

As Monsoon himself would say, "Give me a break."

HARLAN McLURE

Berry Hill, TN

GOOD FOR GILBERT

I have a friend in North Carolina who called me special last night with the big news: Eddie Gilbert is in the NWA! Now, for those of you who hate this fire-throwing rulebreaker as much as I do, hold on for the biggest news of all: He's going after The Varsity Club for breaking Jimmy Garvin's leg!

Eddie Gilbert becomes a fan favorite. Who could have foreseen this? Certainly not I. For months I have hated this man. He burned Jerry Lawler, he burned referees, he burned promoters, and he even beat up Willie B. Hert's son. This is a man who deserves none of our trust and none of our cheers.

But the fact remains that Gilbert wants to destroy The Varsity Club. Who could think of a more noble cause? If he wants to turn rulebreaker at some point down the road, that's fine, but as long as he's battling our enemies, I think we, the fans, should back him 100 percent.

That might be difficult for wrestling fans with long memories. Gilbert employed means of destruction so ruthless that he was constantly jumping federations to avoid punishment. In his wake, he left the injured, the angered, and the embittered.

I hope that Gilbert's turn to good lasts. I can't wait to see him. He's a great wrestler and an exciting performer.

AL COLES
Savannah, GA ☐

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MAY 1987

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

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SPORTS REVIEW INTERVIEW

(Continued from page 22)

Erich, Soldat Ustinov, Curt Hennig, Iceman Parsons, Garvin, Greg Gagne—and that just *begins* the list. Now, compare that to those paper champions, [Ric] Flair and [Randy] Savage, who meet the same opponents over and over and over again. I can't imagine them doing what I have, because I don't think they care about increasing the value of their titles. Plus, I don't

crown, this belt, *nothing* that I own would mean anything without those people out there. The fans have always backed me up no matter how bad the odds have been against me. How would it look for me to lose this title to Ron Garvin or Buddy Landell? That would be letting my fans down, and I wouldn't be able to stand it if I did that.



Lawler catches Landell coming off the ropes (above left). AWA TV champ Ronnie Garvin is about to feel the power of "The King" (above right).



think they're *talented* enough to do it.

Q: A lot of people don't think you'll be able to keep up this pace, though. Many are worried about your mental and physical stability, mainly because they've known you to be one of the most scientific stars in history.

A: Well, I'm glad that people care about me. What's your point, though?

Q: Well, many fans just can't believe that their "King" has stooped to throwing fire and blindsiding opponents. A lot of people think you should simply slow down and take stock of yourself. They don't want to see you become a full-fledged rulebreaker.

A: They really don't have to worry about that, Dave. Everything I do in that ring I do for my fans. This

Q: But a lot of fans in the Dallas area can't stand *you* because of what you've done to Kerry.

A: Well, I feel badly about that. That's why SuperClash III is so important. In this match, there *must* be a winner. There will be no stopping the match for cuts or injuries. When you get right down to it, this is the kind of match I've always wanted against Von Erich. The best man is going to win. And I have no doubt that you are talking to the best man—the only *true* world champion.

Q: Well, Jerry, thanks for your time, and good luck during SuperClash III.

A: Thanks for *your* time, Dave. The next time I see you, I guarantee that I'll be the AWA and World Class champion. Then I'll have a lot more to talk about! ☐

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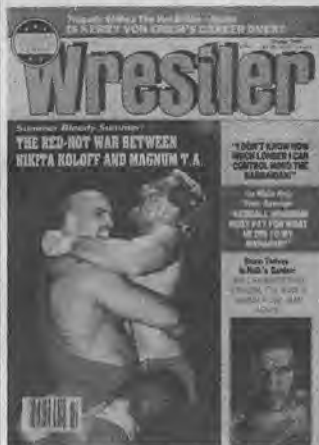
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JANUARY 1985

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INQUIRING

(Continued from page 12)

Spencer Green, Lakeland, FL: "Who cares? Those two Soviet spies have been living off the sweat and blood of Americans for too long! Who has to dish out \$15 to see NWA shows? The fans, that's who. And where do you think the money for the NWA's purses comes from? The fans, that's who. All



Nikita clotheslines Ivan in a match several months before they reunited. Ivan turned to Nikita after he was double-crossed by Paul Jones and his men.

the money that's gone into Ivan and Nikita's pockets comes from us. Big deal that Nikita has been a fan favorite these last few years. They're both Soviet citizens, and should earn their salaries in their own country instead of living off the labor of American workers. Hey, to quote one of their own: 'Wrestling fans of the U.S. unite! You have nothing to lose but a pair of Russian bums!'"

Derek Pierce, Portland, ME: "Yes. That's simple. Of course Nikita should trust Ivan. Whatever happened to the days when a man could atone for his mistakes? Must Ivan be pigeonholed the rest of his life as a ruthless rule-breaker? Isn't he capable of kindness? I'm sure he is. I'll never know why the fans chose to make him one of the most hated rulebreakers of all time. He employed methods no more heinous than any other rulebreaker. And he was so much more talented. And now he wants to turn good. I say, good for him!"

uncle should behave. I think Ivan's sudden turn to good reeks of underhandedness. I don't trust him, and I don't think Nikita should, either!"

Perry Rianhard, Branford, CT:
 “That’s a good question. They’ve been rivals for so long now, I wonder if they can go back. But then again, they were partners for so long, who could have foreseen their original split-up? A lot has changed since they were partners. Now, both are trying to be fan favorites. I was initially suspicious of Nikita, and everything worked out for the best. Why not give Ivan a try? Well, for one thing, he has an even longer history of rulebreaking. Then again, if Nikita is willing to trust him, so am I!” □

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SUPERCLASH III

(Continued from page 25)

RONNIE GARVIN VS. GREG GAGNE

Garvin captured the AWA TV title from Gagne September 17 in Nashville, Tennessee. It's a match that Gagne would prefer to forget.

"After about eight minutes of a pretty scientific match, Garvin faked a sprained ankle," recalled Gagne. "I dropped my guard to aid him, and Garvin pulled out some brass knuckles and clubbed me. I fell for a pretty old trick, but it wasn't the kind of thing I expected from a former NWA World champion."

"Don't expect Gagne to get fooled again," said *Sports Review Wrestling* Senior Editor Bill Apter. "A lot of people in the AWA didn't realize that Garvin is not the same man who once wrestled with a great deal of pride. Today's Garvin is a desperate man capable of stooping to any low tactic to win a match. I think Gagne knows that now, and he's out to prove that Garvin's victory was a fluke."

SGT. SLAUGHTER VS. COL. DeBEERS

This event will be a boot camp match, which will allow Slaughter and DeBeers to wear any type of clothing they want into the ring. Many fans are hoping that the one garment Slaughter won't have to wear is a neck brace.

That's because DeBeers brutally blindsided Slaughter during an interview September 19 in Memphis, delivering a face-first piledriver on the cement floor outside the ring. This stunning attack sent Slaughter out of the arena in an ambulance. After spending several days in the hospital, Slaughter contacted promoters for a rematch.

"I want a boot camp match!" bellowed the former Marine drill instructor. "DeBeers hasn't been



Ronnie Garvin chinlocks Greg Gagne (top); at SuperClash, Gagne is looking to regain the AWA TV title he lost to "Hands of Stone." Col. DeBeers aims Sgt. Slaughter at the ringpost (above). Sarge wants to destroy the maniacal DeBeers.

man enough to face me head-on in the middle of the ring, so I'll give him the opportunity to attack me any way he wants to. The only difference is now I'll get a chance to hit him back!"

"The Slaughter-DeBeers feud picks up where the Slaughter-Iron

Sheik feud left off a few years ago," said Assistant Editor Andy Rodriguez. "This match is notable because it puts Slaughter back in the national spotlight once again—where he should have been all along."

(Continued on page 52)

BACK ISSUES OF

Inside Wrestling

Be sure to fill in the gaps in your collection of **INSIDE WRESTLING**, "The magazine that rips the lid off pro wrestling." Get all the information you need to keep up on the pro wrestling scene. Don't be left out. Avoid sellouts—order today!

November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.
January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.
April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.
May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.
June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.
September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.
January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humpdink.
February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.
March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.
April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.
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July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.
August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.
September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.
October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.
November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.
February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.
March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.
April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.
May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.
June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.
July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.
August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.

September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.



AUGUST 1984

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
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August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.
February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.
March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.
April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.
May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlemania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.
September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.
October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Luger, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.
November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.
December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.
February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.
March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.
June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.
August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.
October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.
November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.
December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.
February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.
June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.
August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.
September 1988/SPECIAL ISSUE: Color coverage of WMV, Parade of Champs, Crockett Cup. Plus: Lawler, Von Erich, Hart, Cornette.
October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.
November 1988/Stories include: Kerry vs. Lawler, Windham, Luger, Muraco.
December 1988/Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper.

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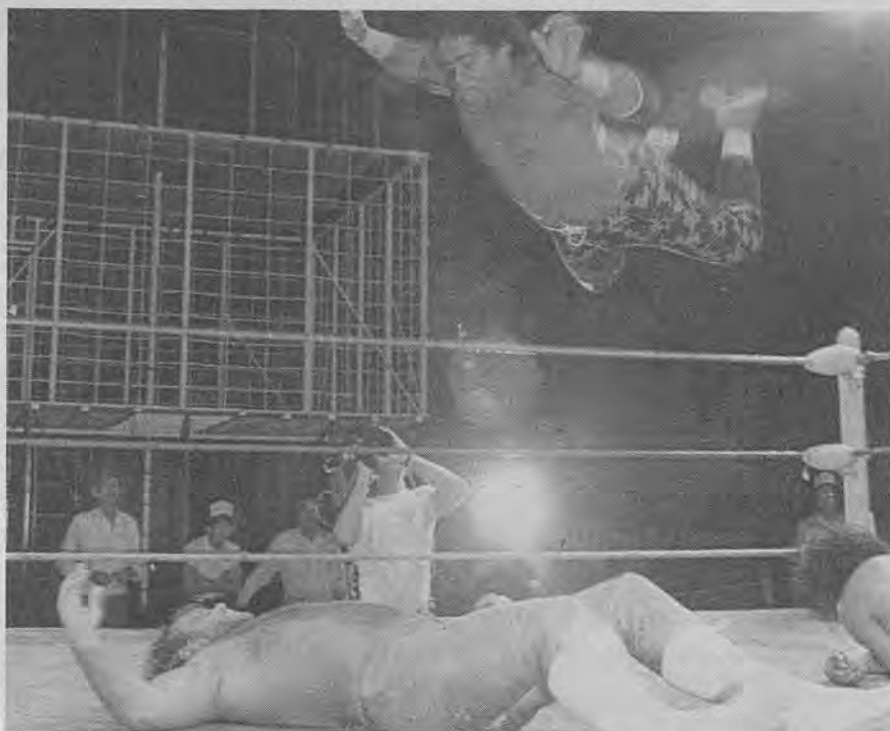
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SUPERCLASH III

(Continued from page 51)



Fatu of The Samoan Swat Team executes a flying bodypress on Michael Hayes. The Samoans are managed by Buddy Roberts, Hayes' old Freebird partner.

STEVE COX & MICHAEL HAYES VS.

THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM

The hottest tag team feud in wrestling? You'd be hard-pressed to find more rancor in one place than when Hayes and Cox square off against Buddy Roberts' SST.

"I'd agree with that," said Roberts, manager of the current World Class tag champions. "But as far as feuds go, this really isn't much. That's because we've kicked their butts every time we've met them!"

"Sure they have," spit Cox. "We managed to take those belts away from them once. Now, we're gonna take them away for good, and send those bums back to Samoa once and for all."

"This is definitely one of the most underrated feuds of the year," explained Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks. "Most of the fans are waiting to see a rematch between these two teams. It wouldn't surprise me if this turns out to be the most exciting event of SuperClash III."

OTHER MATCHES

Iceman Parsons will put his World Class Texas title up for grabs against the CWA's **Brickhouse Brown** . . . **Wahoo McDaniel** will meet longtime nemesis **Manny Fernandez** in an Indian strap match . . . **Hector, Mando, and Chavo Guerrero** will take on **The Rock 'n' Roll RPMs** and **Cactus Jack Foley** . . . A 10-woman street-fight battle royal is scheduled . . . **Eric Embry** will meet **Jeff Jarrett** in a match for the World Class light heavyweight title . . . **Jimmy Valiant** will square off against **Tommy Rich** . . . **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** will meet **Jimmy Golden** and **Robert Fuller** . . . **Ricky Rice, John Paul, and Wendi Richter** will meet **Pat Tanaka, Paul Diamond** and **Madusa Miceli** in a mixed tag match . . . Also slated is a super-heavyweight battle royal featuring competitors who all weigh in at more than 300 pounds. Among those signed to appear are **Humongous**, former NFL star **Harvey Martin**, **Jerry Blackwell**, **Cousin Luke**, and **The Avalanche**. □

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September 1979/Flair-McDaniel, Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.

February 1980/Rhodes-Funk, Race, Spoiler, Brisco.

May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.

October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.

January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.

June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.

September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.

November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.

May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.

October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.

November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.

December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink.

January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.

March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.

April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Brisco, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.

May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.

June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.

July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.

January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.

February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.

August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.

November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!

December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.

January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.

June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.

October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.

November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.

March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.



SEPTEMBER 1987

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.

May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.

July 1986/Omdorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.

September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourney.

October 1986/Omdorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.

November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.

December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.

January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.

February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.

March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.

April 1987/1986 in Pictures, Kevin Von Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.

May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.

June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.

July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.

August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.

September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.

October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourney.

November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Shepherders, Condrey.

December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card.

January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.

February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.

March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.

April 1988/1987 in Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.

May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.

June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBiase, Adams, NWA New York invasion.

July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.

August 1988/Luger and Sting win Crockett Cup, Savage-DiBiase, Nasty Boys, Ultimate Warrior.

September 1988/Predictions Through 1988, Williams, Rhodes, Bad Company, greatest Garden matches.

October 1988/Midnight Rockers, Sting, Taylor, Koloff, Hot Young Lions.

November 1988/R&R Express, Honky Tonk, Von Erichs, Great American Bash.

December 1988/Warriors, Samoan SWAT Team, Hart, Andre, Presidential Wrestlers.

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RANDY SAVAGE

(Continued from page 27)

Lanny Poffo to capture the Southeastern tag team championship. After losing the belts, they went their separate ways.

But Randy and Lanny reunited—against each other. In 1978, Lanny won the International Championship Wrestling title. Savage demanded a shot at the belt, which Lanny granted. On July 21, 1979, Savage beat his brother for the belt, then went on to successfully defended it for nearly four years.

After losing the title, Savage traveled to the Mid-Southern area, where Jimmy Hart was his manager. He held the Mid-Southern title on several occasions, trading ownership of the belt several times with Jerry Lawler. In late 1984, Savage once again wrestled his brother Lanny, this time in a completely empty Mid-South Coliseum in Memphis with Lawler as referee. When the "Macho Man's" final Mid-Southern title reign was ended by Lawler on June 3, 1985, he traveled to the WWF.

Virtually every WWF manager engaged in a heated bidding war for Savage's services, but he surprised everyone by choosing the unknown Elizabeth. In the beginning, Savage was widely criticized for the way he treated her, though it was eventually widely acknowledged that she had been a wise choice.

In late 1985 and early 1986, Savage had an intense series of title matches against former WWF World champion Hulk Hogan. "The Hulkster" retained his title, but Savage was undaunted; on February 8, 1986, in Boston, he defeated Tito Santana for the Intercontinental title, which he held for more than a year.

His toughest competitor during that reign was Rick Steamboat. In one frightening incident, Savage smashed "The Dragon" in the



Elizabeth plants a kiss on the cheek of her favorite wrestler. Savage was criticized for selecting Elizabeth over established WWF managers, but, quite obviously, he knew what he was doing.

throat with the timekeeper's bell. Revenge for Steamboat came at WrestleMania III on March 29, 1987, when he captured Savage's belt.

Perhaps humbled by the loss, Savage began treating Elizabeth decently and respecting the fans. His next target was The Honky Tonk Man, who had defeated Steamboat for the Intercontinental title. It was during a battle with Honky Tonk that Savage became Hulk Hogan's ally.

The "Macho Man" was one of 14 entrants in the WWF World title tournament at WrestleMania IV in Atlantic City on March 27, 1988. Victories over Butch Reed, Greg Valentine, and One Man Gang propelled Savage to a final-

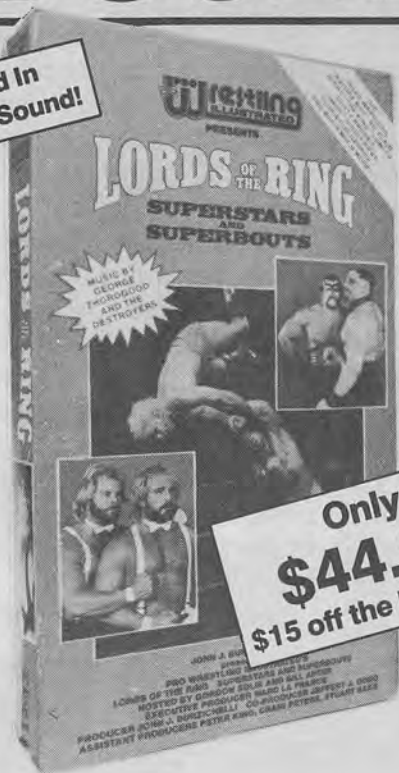
round match against Ted DiBiase. With Hogan in his corner, Savage won the championship.

The WrestleMania victory was not the end of Savage's feud with DiBiase, though, as the "Million-Dollar Man" fought the new for months. As Savage and Hogan's friendship grew, they formed "The Megapowers." The duo defeated Andre the Giant and DiBiase at SummerSlam 88 on August 29, 1988.

Though he has held the title for less than a year, Savage is already considered by some to be just as popular as Hogan ever was during his four-year reign. It's a level of popularity that shows no signs of diminishing anytime in the near future! □

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STING

(Continued from page 35)

I'm not sure how it happens. The only thing I am sure of is that I wouldn't be as good without them."

But he could be richer. Several months ago, Dillon offered Sting a multimillion-dollar contract to join the Horsemen. Sting, citing his disgust with Dillon and the Horsemen's *modus operandi*, turned him down. Now, however, Dillon is desperate. With only Ric Flair and Barry Windham at his side, he needs Sting more than ever. Dillon thirsts for power, but his control over the NWA has grown tenuous.

Flair is still the World champion and Windham is still the U.S.

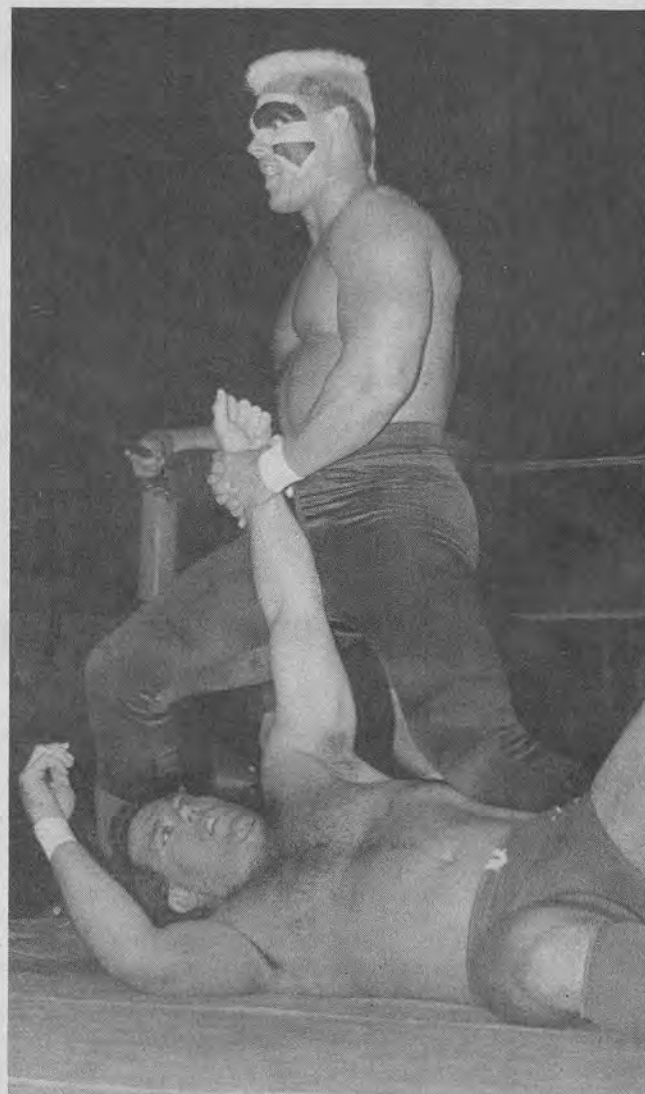
champ. Tully and Arn, however, were World tag team champions until the day of their departure. With Tully and Arn gone, Flair and Windham will have a harder time using outside interference to save their belts. Dillon doesn't just *want* Sting. He *needs* him. Of course, he'll never admit it.

"I don't see what advantage can possibly be gained by signing Sting," Dillon told *Sports Review Wrestling*. "To tell you the truth, we just don't need him. When I'm looking for a member of The Four Horsemen, I'm looking for an elite athlete. And even when they become a member, they're *still* sub-

ject to the strictest standards. That's why Luger couldn't last. Besides, Sting hasn't even come close to beating Barry for the U.S. title, and there's no room in the Horsemen for losers."

Dillon also won't admit that he once offered Sting a contract with the Horsemen. "Absolutely untrue," Dillon said. But Sting has confirmed that an offer was made earlier in the year when he was the top contender for Flair's title. Since then, however, Luger has received most of the shots at Flair while Sting takes aim at Windham's U.S. belt.

"It's a simple matter of common



"The Stinger" traps Windham on the turnbuckle (above left); Sting has resisted offers to join Windham in the Horsemen. Sting ambars former Horseman Tully Blanchard (above right).

sense," Sting said. "He wanted me before, so now that he's lost two guys, he's gonna want me even more now. I haven't heard his latest offer, but I know one's coming. And I also know what my answer will be: No!"

Of course, Sting's answer might change once he sees the amount offered. It's one thing to say you're going to turn down a large sum of money; it's another thing to actually do it. Dillon knows this. He's seen it happen.

Windham, remember, turned down a public offer to become a Horseman, but weeks later Dillon dropped by one day with a suitcase full of money. "Sign me up!" said Windham.

So now it's up to you: Can you convince Sting that he shouldn't join the Horsemen? Will your cheers be loud enough? Will the love that you show for him be strong enough? And are your cheers worth the price that you're asking Sting to pay? The power of money and greed has often overshadowed love and nobility. So pull—because you must!—on Sting's heartstrings while Dillon pulls out his wallet.

"I can't believe Sting would ever join The Four Horsemen," said 17-year-old Danielle Brady of Charlotte, North Carolina. "Luger and Windham were a different story. Sting is a genuine person. When he says he loves the fans and hates the Horsemen, he means it. It would take more than money to make him change. Besides, he loves hearing us cheer him. And we love cheering him!"

And you want to keep on cheering him. You want to be there when Sting finally topples Windham. You want to be there when he wins his first NWA World championship. You want to be there for the glory of his ultimate victories.

But Dillon wants to be there, too. He wants Sting.

And the tug-of-war will continue. ☐

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TATTLER

(Continued from page 8)

cation), then went nose-to-nose with Sting. Meanwhile, Animal came up from behind and double-hammered Sting in the back. The Warriors double-clotheslined him and continued an all-out assault. When Lex Luger ran into the ring yelling at the Warriors, Hawk floored him, too. Several other wrestlers charged the ring and the Warriors finally walked away.

"You have just seen 'The Legion of Doom' enter a new era," Paul Ellering said. "We were mean, now we're meaner. We were dangerous, now we're deadly. We learned tonight that caring about other people isn't gonna get us anywhere. We don't care about Rhodes, we don't care about Sting, and we don't care about the fans. All we care about is getting our hands on those World belts."

Rhodes was not available for comment, but Sting admitted that he was stunned by the attack.

"I guess they were mad that I wasn't going to get the win for us, but that's just the way it is," Sting said. "I'm a team player and I was trying to do it for the team. That six-man title was on the line, and I didn't want to be the one to lose it for them. But the way things stand now, I don't care what happens to them. Those guys think they rule the world, but they don't have the belts to prove it."

Sting suffered several minor neck and back injuries as a result of the attack.

—Ken Miranda

CALGARY, ALBERTA: Stampede North American champion Makhan Singh has been suspended for 45 days for his part in an attack on announcer Ed Whalen during a recent broadcast. Tyrone McBeth, President of the International Wrestling Alliance (Stampede's governing body), made the announcement.

"We cannot stand by idly while civilians are attacked by wrestlers,"



MAKHAN SINGH

McBeth said. "Mr. Whalen is a servant of professional wrestling and deserves respect. I must also point out that this is not the first time Mr. Singh has committed a heinous offense, and I warn him: If he does not curtail these activities, we will be forced to strip him of the title."

Singh attacked Whalen while the announcer was reading a letter from a fan; the letter demanded that Singh wrestle Steve DiSalvo in title matches. Singh charged in, broke Whalen's glasses, and called in Johnny Smith and Jerry Morrow. The three wrestlers were prepared to deliver a "Karachi Krunch" when DiSalvo ran into the ring and clotheslined Singh.

"If he's so tough, why doesn't he come after me?" DiSalvo said afterward. "If you ask me, Singh's a coward. He doesn't deserve to be champion."

In other Stampede news, Lance Idol and Chris Benoit won the Stampede International tag belts from The Cuban Commandos—Jerry Morrow and The Cuban Assassin—on October 7.

—Geoffrey York

FT. WAYNE, IN: Hulk Hogan was the victim of a vicious attack by Big Bossman and Slick during an interview with Brother Love here, but later came back to defeat the Bossman by countout.

Brother Love had suggested that Hogan was "losing control of himself" when Slick came out with Bossman and told "The Hulkster" he could help get himself together again, "just like I did with One Man Gang." The Gang is now known as Akeem.

Hulk, however, did not take kindly to Slick's offer. They exchanged heated words before Slick sprayed a foreign substance in Hogan's eyes.



SLICK & BOSSMAN

Then Bossman handcuffed Hogan to a barrier and knocked him unconscious with a nightstick. Hulk was taken off by several referees.

Also on the card, Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson made their WWF debuts as "The Brain Busters," managed by Bobby Heenan; they defeated Tommy Angel and Bob Henry. The following night in Toledo, Ohio, former AWA World champion Curt Hennig challenged WWF World champ Randy Savage. No matches had been signed at press time.

—Rich Konsens ☐

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CHERYL/JAKE/RICK

(Continued from page 37)



begged for Cheryl's attention. Despite the embarrassment Rude was suffering, he didn't give up. Suddenly, Cheryl wasn't disgusted by Rude. She was flattered by him.

Still, she remained silent.

Then, one night in New York, after the matches at Madison Square Garden, Cheryl wasn't feeling well and returned to her hotel room while Jake stayed behind to speak with several promoters. As she stepped out of the elevator, in stepped Rude. They looked at each other carefully, then spoke cautiously.

"I'm not sure we should be speaking," Cheryl said.

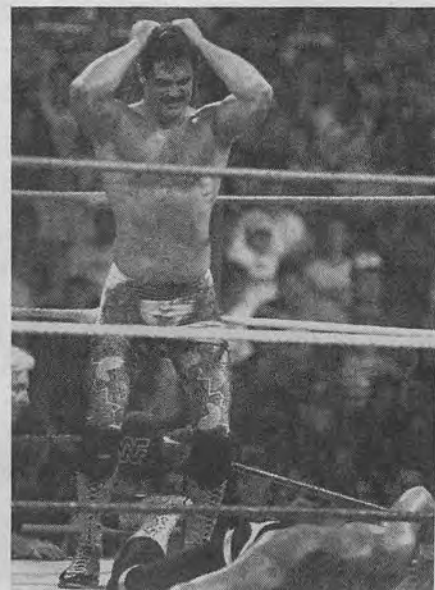
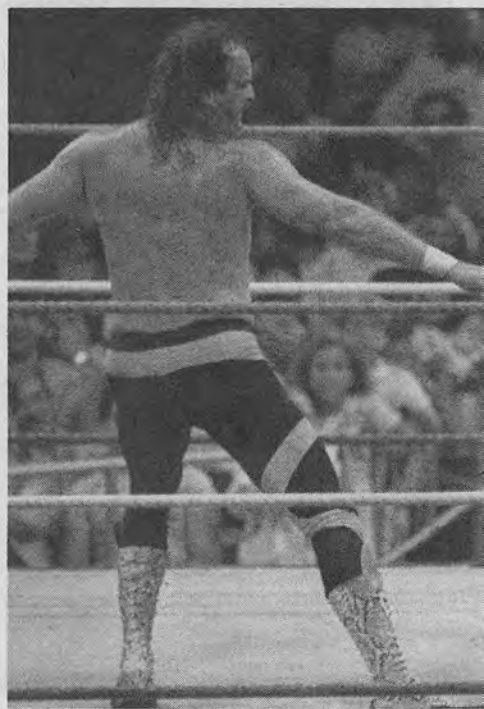
"Why not? We're adults," Rude said, sounding more mature than he ever had before.

"What will people think? What will Jake say?" Cheryl said.

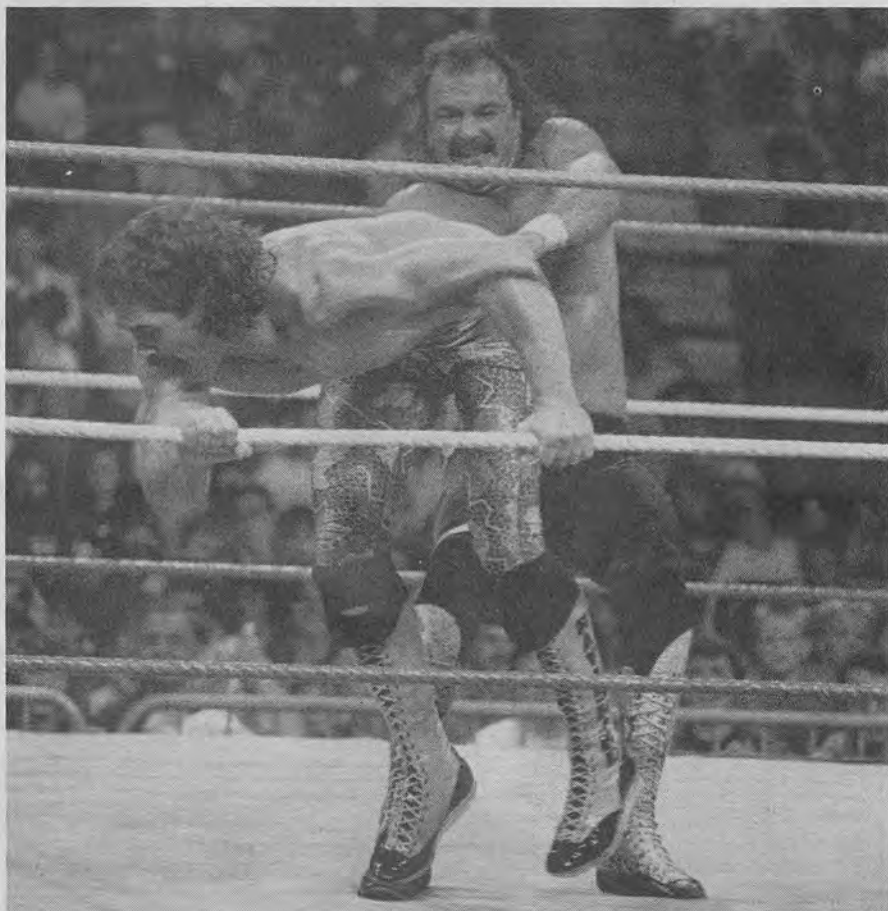
"Who cares what people think? Who cares about your husband?" Rude answered. "Besides, you're in love with me. You can't deny it, so don't."

She didn't.

It was the last of many losses. Lumbering around the ring, Jake Roberts was tired and out of weapons. His body and mind were sapped of the energy and determination that had driven him throughout his entire career. He didn't even think of the last resort, his pet



Rick Rude chicken-wings Jake "The Snake" Roberts, who is in obvious pain (above). Roberts pulls Rude back into the fray (right) and stops him from leaving the ring (below). Rude arrogantly shows his disgust for "The Snake" (bottom right). Rude got into big trouble with Roberts after he tried to kiss Roberts' wife, Cheryl. She resisted the temptations, but Rude didn't give up on trying to get her, even going so far as to wear tights with her picture on them.



snake Damien, that he had laboriously dragged to the ring. The match had begun only 45 seconds earlier, but Jake couldn't go on.

In the back of the arena, Cheryl Roberts looked on misty-eyed, able to reflect emotionally on the past, while all the while realizing that her present and her future—Rick Rude—stood nearby, laughing out loud while Roberts flailed his legs wildly and Barry Horowitz scored the pin that would spell the end of Jake's career. He had fallen so far since she left him.

As Jake exited the ring, he glanced up for a moment and caught Cheryl's eye. He mouthed the words, "Why? How?" but she only glanced downward.



Roberts passed Rude in the run-way to the dressing rooms, but did not see him. His thoughts were turned to the past, when he first stepped in to save Cheryl from Rude's lewd advances. From that point on, he was always sure that the better man would win this battle, and that he was the better man; that right would triumph over evil, and that he was right.

But now he doubted who was right and who was better—and that was the toughest defeat of them all. ☐

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WE ACCUSE

(Continued from page 14)



Rick Steamboat was proud to bring his baby son into the ring at WrestleMania IV, but imagine the consequences if Greg Valentine, his opponent, had attacked!

As luck would have it, Valentine didn't act, but the point is clear: Why would Steamboat risk the safety of his son rather than approach the ring like a professional—that is, alone? Does he actually think the ring is a safe place for children? Steamboat, overjoyed by the birth of his son, wanted to introduce him to the WrestleMania crowd. That's understandable. But the potential for danger was far too great; an introduction is one thing, an introduction in the ring is something else again.

This type of family participation is becoming more and more prevalent in wrestling. Wrestling was not meant to be "fun and games for the whole family," as TV ads for bowling proclaim. It's a dangerous and deadly sport that is not for the untrained. Wrestling talent is *not* necessarily genetic.

And you can't marry into it, either. Cheryl Roberts may have a score to

settle with Rick Rude, but she should ignore him, not get involved at ringside.

If Willie B. Hert wants to prepare his son for a career in wrestling, let him do so in the gym.

If Rick Steamboat wants to introduce his son to the fans, let him do so from the safety of the interview podium, not the center of the ring with an angry opponent in the far corner. Better yet, leave the baby at home where he belongs.

If wrestlers continue to bring family members to ringside, what's next? The potential for injury and disaster is obvious. That's why we at *Sports Review Wrestling* accuse wrestlers of being party to the cheapening of their own great sport. Wrestlers should be battling to defend themselves, their beliefs, their won-lost records, and their championships.

Not members of their family. ☐



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Wrestling



Randy Savage

TOP 10

- 1 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
WWF World champion
- 2 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
NWA World champion
- 3 JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
AWA World champion
- 4 LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
No. 2 contender: NWA title
- 5 KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
World Class champion
- 6 TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
No. 2 contender: WWF title
- 7 BARRY WINDHAM**
263, Sweetwater, TX
U.S. heavyweight champion
- 8 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
No. 3 contender: NWA title
- 9 HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
No. 3 contender: WWF title
- 10 THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
WWF Intercontinental champion

TAG TEAMS

- 1 THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**
Combined weight: 453 pounds
NWA World tag team champions
- 2 DEMOLITION**
Combined weight: 585 pounds
WWF World tag team champions
- 3 THE ROAD WARRIORS**
Combined weight: 567 pounds
No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 4 PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND**
Combined weight: 456 pounds
AWA World tag team champions
- 5 THE FANTASTICS**
Combined weight: 462 pounds
No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title
- 6 THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**
Combined weight: 461 pounds
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 7 JACQUES & RAYMOND ROUGEAU**
Combined weight: 490 pounds
No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 8 THE HART FOUNDATION**
Combined weight: 515 pounds
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 9 THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM**
Combined weight: 510 pounds
World Class and Texas tag team champions
- 10 THE ROCK 'N' ROLL RPMs**
Combined weight: 472 pounds
CWA tag team champions

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR

263, Sweetwater, TX

- 1—BARRY WINDHAM**
263, Sweetwater, TX
- 2—LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 3—STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
- 4—DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 5—STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
- 6—NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 7—MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
- 8—RICK STEINER**
248, Detroit, MI
- 9—BAM BAM BIGELOW**
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 10—EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN

WWF

World Champion:
RANDY SAVAGE

245, Sarasota, FL

- 1—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
- 2—ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
- 3—HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 4—TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 5—BAD NEWS BROWN**
280, New York, NY
- 6—KING HAKU**
274, Tonga
- 7—THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
- 8—JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 9—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
273, San Francisco, CA
- 10—BIG BOSSMAN**
348, Cobb County, GA

AWA

World Champion:
JERRY LAWLER

234, Memphis, TN

- 1—RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 2—KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 3—GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 4—WAHOO McDANIEL**
280, Midland, TX
- 5—MANNY FERNANDEZ**
245, El Paso, TX
- 6—COL. DeBEERS**
248, Cape Town, South Africa
- 7—SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
- 8—SOLDAT USTINOV**
265, Moscow, Russia
- 9—MANDO GUERRERO**
225, Mexico City, Mexico
- 10—TEIHO KHAN**
265, Singapore

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
KERRY VON ERICH

260, Denton, TX

- 1—ICEMAN PARSONS**
245, St. Louis, MO
- 2—JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 3—KAMALA**
360, Uganda
- 4—ERIC EMBRY**
225, Lexington, KY
- 5—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 6—TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 7—KEVIN VON ERICH**
235, Denton, TX
- 8—KENDALL WINDHAM**
220, Sweetwater, TX
- 9—STEVE COX**
240, Portsmouth, VA
- 10—SUPER BLACK NINJA**
245, Tokyo, Japan

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

MOST POPULAR

- 1 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- 2 HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 3 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
- 4 LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
- 5 THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
- 6 HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
- 7 DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
- 8 JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
- 9 JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular
- 10 KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular

MOST HATED

- 1 ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
- 2 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
- 3 TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- 4 BARRY WINDHAM**
263, Sweetwater, TX
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
- 5 RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
- 6 THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
- 7 KEVIN SULLIVAN**
252, Boston, MA
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated
- 8 RON BASS**
285, Pampa, TX
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated
- 9 RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
Last month: unrated
- 10 TOMMY RICH**
248, Hendersonville, TN
Last month: unrated

For period ended October 13, 1988

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value; 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

- 1—RIC FLAIR 96 points
- 2—RANDY SAVAGE 80 points
- 3—LEX LUGER 58 points
- 4—JERRY LAWLER 51 points
- 5—STING 44 points

TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE ROAD WARRIORS 77 points
- 2—THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS 75 points
- 3—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON ... 74 points
- 4—DEMOLITION 64 points
- 5—THE FANTASTICS 42 points

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
MAKHAN SINGH
380, Saginaw, MI

- 1—JOHNNY SMITH
235, Manchester, England
- 2—LANCE IDOL
225, Hollywood, CA
- 3—BRUCE HART
211, Calgary, Alberta
- 4—CHRIS BENOIT
218, Edmonton, Alberta
- 5—STEVE BLACKMAN
250, Pittsburgh, PA
- 6—VULKAN SINGH
300, Billings, MT
- 7—GAMA SINGH
220, Karachi, Pakistan
- 8—JERRY MORROW
235, Martinique
- 9—STEVE DISALVO
298, Boston, MA
- 10—BEEF WELLINGTON
225, Lloydminster, Alberta

CWA

CWA Champion:
PHIL HICKERSON
257, Jackson, TN

- 1—BRICKHOUSE BROWN
225, Winter Haven, FL
- 2—JEFF JARRETT
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 3—JIMMY VALIANT
251, New York, NY
- 4—TOMMY RICH
248, Hendersonville, TN
- 5—ROBERT FULLER
238, Dyresburg, TN
- 6—GARY YOUNG
240, Houston, TX
- 7—BILL DUNDEE
214, Melbourne, AUS
- 8—JIMMY GOLDEN
235, Montgomery, AL
- 9—BUDDY LANDELL
236, Los Angeles, CA
- 10—SCOTT STEINER
235, Detroit, MI

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion:
TOM PRICHARD
220, Houston, TX

- 1—TONY ANTHONY
235, Bucksnorth, TN
- 2—JERRY STUBBS
242, Pensacola, FL
- 3—RON FULLER
238, Dyresburg, TN
- 4—WILLIE B. HERT
238, El Paso, TX
- 5—LORD HUMONGOUS
325, parts unknown
- 6—AUSTIN IDOL
240, Las Vegas, NV
- 7—KEN WAYNE
208, Memphis, TN
- 8—DAN DAVIS
238, Nashville, TN
- 9—THE BULLET
234, parts unknown
- 10—TIM HORNER
235, Morristown, TN

FLORIDA

FCW Champion:
DICK SLATER
235, Tampa, FL

- 1—JOHNNY ACE
250, San Bernadino, CA
- 2—THE TERMINATOR
260, parts unknown
- 3—SCOTTY THE BODY
235, Palm Beach, FL
- 4—MIKE GRAHAM
221, Tampa, FL
- 5—STEVE KEIRN
238, Tampa, FL
- 6—MARK STARR
232, Tampa, FL
- 7—THE BLADE
231, Tampa, FL
- 8—THE ROCK
248, Tampa, FL
- 9—JIM BACKLUND
221, Plant City, FL
- 10—DUSTIN RHODES
240, Austin, TX

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 135 wrestlers in 12 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Where are they now? It's been nearly a year since the Universal Wrestling Federation disbanded and was dissolved into the NWA, so we thought it might be interesting to take a look at what's happened to many of the UWF's top stars since then. Below are the last UWF ratings ever printed in *Sports Review Wrestling* (for the period ended December 7, 1987).



Steve Williams

UWF

UWF Champion:
STEVE WILLIAMS

265, Norman, OK

1—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX

2—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA

3—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL

4—**RICK STEINER**
248, Detroit, MI

5—**STING**
270, parts unknown

6—**EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN

7—**RON SIMMONS**
260, Perry, GA

8—**BIG BUBBA ROGERS**
348, Louisville, KY

9—**BLACK BART**
261, Pampa, TX

10—**SHANE DOUGLAS**
223, Pittsburgh, PA

Certainly, there's been lots of movement since then: UWF champ **Steve Williams** was promised a shot at NWA World champ **Ric Flair** after the UWF disbanded, but that never materialized. Williams is still trying to get a match against Flair, but "Dr. Death's" stock has dropped significantly without the belt ... **Barry Windham** was Western States champion; since then, he's joined **The Four Horsemen** and captured the NWA U.S.

championship ... **Larry Zbyszko** is now Western States champ, but he's defended his title infrequently. Zbyszko, in fact, has not been a great success since arriving in the NWA and has dropped considerably in the ratings ... **Terry Taylor** went to World Class for a short time and is now in the WWF, where he's managed by **Bobby Heenan** and known by the moniker "Little Red Rooster" ... **Rick Steiner**, now a member of **Kevin Sullivan's "Varsity Club,"** is defending **Mike Rotundo's** Florida title ... **Sting** has come a long way since his UWF days. He's the top contender to Windham's U.S. title, the number-two contender to the World title, and second in our Most Popular ratings ... **Eddie Gilbert** has been to the AWA, the CWA, and the CWF over the past year, and even took a shot at **Jerry Lawler's** AWA World title. Now Gilbert is in the NWA ... **Ron Simmons** has been struggling in the NWA with no title in sight ... **Big Bubba Rogers** is now in the WWF, where he's known as **Big Bossman** and managed by **Slick**. He wrestled **Hulk Hogan** several times and is on the verge of a series of matches against World champion **Randy Savage** ... **Black Bart** is wrestling in World Class and teaming with **Jimmy Jack Funk** ... **Shane Douglas** recently left the Continental Wrestling Federation.

It's The Sunshine State! Land of great citrus fruit, Walt Disney World, and some of the most exciting wrestling in the country with Florida Championship Wrestling. FCW takes center stage in the revolving ratings this month, boasting seven Florida natives in its top 10: FCW champion **Dick Slater**, **Mike Graham**, **Steve Keirn**, **Mark Starr**, **The Blade**, **The Rock**, and **Jim Backlund**. This relatively new federation also features **Dustin Rhodes**, son of "The American Dream" **Dusty Rhodes**.

That's all for now. But we'd love to hear what you think about our ratings and anything else that's on your mind. The address for mail is: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Sports Review Wrestling*, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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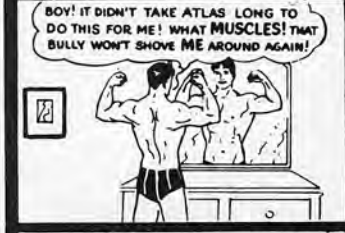


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SHOULDERS?**



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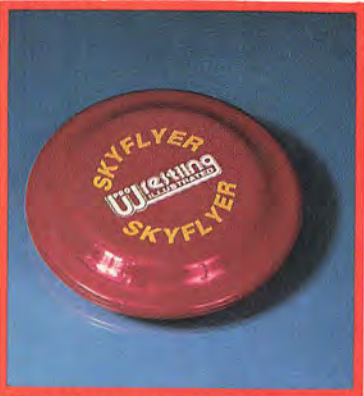
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PWI BUMPER STICKER



PWI BUTTON



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PWI CAP	\$7.00 ea.		
PWI SKYFLYER	\$5.00 ea.		
PWI BUMPER STICKER	\$2.00 ea.		
PWI BUTTON	\$1.00 ea.		
PWI DELUXE PACKAGE	\$19.95 ea.		

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